



Council OKs ordinance about right-of-way signs

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The only item on the agenda at a special Chandler City Council meeting July 28 got unanimous approval. Council voted 7-0 for final approval of an ordinance that authorizes the removal of “illegal” temporary signs posted in the public right of way and requiring signs to be marked with the name and phone number of the person or entity responsible for its posting.

Council doesn’t typically meet the fourth Monday of the month or have only one item on the agenda, nor does it hold many special meetings. But timing seemed critical on passing this ordinance, Mayor Kevin Hartke said.

Council could have waited until its Aug. 11 regular meeting for final adoption of the ordinance. But Chandler ordinances don’t become effective until 30 days after final adoption, and state law prohibits cities from removing political signs in a public right of way from 71 days before an election.

• See **Signs** on page 9

Independent examination:
Chandler city salaries 2024



Top gross salaries not all from ‘C-suite’ department heads

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The top executive hired by the governing board is often the highest-paid person in U.S. governments. That’s not always the case, though, as situations

like the city of Chandler’s top salaries. The top gross wage-earner — and many in the top 25 — are first-responders.

Assistant Police Chief Dave Ramer represented one of those high-earning first responders and also the nature of the veteran, highly compensated staff Chandler has across many departments — something due to

• See **Salaries** on page 14

Assistant Chandler Police Chief Dave Ramer, left, was the highest-paid employee in the city in 2024. (Courtesy of Chandler Police)

RENOVATE
YOUR GATE



**YOUR GATE NEED
AN UPDATE?**

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

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

ECRWSSEDDM
Postal Customer

F R E E W A Y C H E V R O L E T

2025 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab
UP TO **\$14,000 OFF***
OVER **200 IN STOCK!**



Together
let's drive™



2025 TRAX FWD LT
LEASE **\$269/MO*** **24 MOS**
FOR ELIGIBLE
CURRENT LESSEES

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



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

*2025 Silverado 1500 Crew Cab: up to \$14,000 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. See dealer for details. Take new retail delivery by 9/2/25. 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. \$269/month for 24 months. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2025 CHEVROLET Trax FWD LT with an MSRP of \$24,095. Based on due at signing amount of \$2,509 (after all offers). 24 monthly payments total \$6,456. 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 9/2/25.

**SCAN FOR
SPECIAL OFFERS**



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

Summer Special

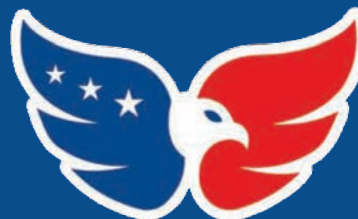
20% OFF

Expires 9/30/25

Call us NOW!**480-712-5770**

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.**

ROC #338650


America's
 HOME PROS
AHOMEPROS.COM

COMMUNITY NEWS

IN BRIEF

'Ted Talk' panel and speaker event focuses on teen safety

Maricopa County District 1 Supervisor and former Chandler City Council member Mark Stewart is hosting a "Ted Talk" event, focused on teen safety, in late August.

"Stronger Together: Safe Minds, Safe Communities" is a free speaker and panel Q&A event set for Friday, Aug. 29, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Union of ASU Prep, 5999 South Backus Mall, near Mesa Gateway Airport.

Read more about this free event and register at this Eventbrite link: tinyurl.com/39r44rdz.



A maximum of 15 teens will be selected for Chandler's 2025-26 Youth Arts Council. Complete the online application at tinyurl.com/y83srekm before the Aug. 22 deadline. (Courtesy of Chandler Center for the Arts)

Chandler-area teens can apply for Youth Arts Council

Chandler's Youth Arts Council program is free of charge to all participants. The program starts in September and concludes in March.

A maximum of 15 teens will be selected. Complete the online application at tinyurl.com/y83srekm before the Aug. 22, 5 p.m. deadline.

Candidates must be age 13-17 and attend a public, private, parochial, charter school or are homeschooled. The program for students who are interested in leadership and the arts to see the ins and outs of a performing arts center.

For more information, email yac@chandlercenter.org or call 480-782-2682.

State rep, mayor could end up switching places

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Three names have been added and one is soon likely to be removed from a list of people seeking one of Chandler's elected positions in 2026.

Jeff Weninger has added his name to the list of those who have filed a statement of intent with City Clerk Dana DeLong to run for what will be the vacated mayor's seat in Chandler in the August 2026 primary.

Joe Granado has filed a statement of interest to run for council in 2026.

Weninger is a state representative for Legislative District 13, which includes most of Chandler. He's a former Chandler city council member who won new seats in the state House twice.

Granado is in the construction business.

Weninger, co-owner of several East Valley restaurants, said on his website he wants to "bring conservative values back to Chandler City Hall."

On his social media, Weninger



Jeff Weninger has added his name to the list of those who have filed a statement of intent with the Chandler City Clerk to run for what will be the vacated mayor's seat in the August 2026 primary. (Independent Newsmedia file/Jason W. Brooks)

seemed critical of how Mayor Kevin Hartke and the council have handled recent issues.

"I've heard from parents, seniors, and small business owners who are frustrated with the status quo and with politicians who put their self-interest ahead of the people they serve," Weninger wrote. "I am committed to returning innovation and transparency to our city."

Hartke, in turn, has filed to run for the seat Weninger would be vacating, as one of the two state House representatives for LD13. Hartke is term-limited, though whether he could run for his old council seat in 2026 is part of what sparked recent controversy.

Hartke is the latest of past three mayors to serve 16 years each — two terms as a City Council member and then immediately ran for and served two terms as mayor. After attorneys weighed in, not only did Hartke pull back his intent to run for council, his 2022 opponent, Ruth Jones, is suing.

She claims the city charter requires council members or mayors to take two years off before running for the other office, meaning Hartke shouldn't have been eligible to run for his first term as mayor in 2018.

Council decided, after an executive session and two public meetings, to add a proposed charter amendment to the Nov. 4 ballot this year, capping council-mayor service at 16 consecutive years and

• See **Mayor** on page 22

CRIME

Chandler stats: Violence down, property crimes up

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

During this year's annual city-wide budget briefing, Chandler Police Chief Bryan Chapman said "crime is down."

That's true — sort of.

Violent crime dropped off significantly in Chandler Police Department reporting in 2024, but property crime rates remain high in the city.

Violent crimes decreased 23% in Chandler in 2024, from 505 to 389, marking the third straight year of decreases, according to statistics from the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Meanwhile, property crimes, driven largely by an uptick in reported shoplifting, went up about 3% over the course of 2024.

Nationally, in 2023, the last full year for which FBI statis-

tics are available, the same sort of drop in the same four violent crimes that Chandler would experience a year later.

In property crimes, however, Chandler had an increase of shoplifting occurrences, from about 1,200 to about 1,900, that was the main reason in property crimes increasing.

• See **Crime** on page 22



Gilbert Pool Remodeling

#1

*Premier Pool
Remodeling &
Service*

Licensed - Bonded - Insured



Swimming Pool Tile



Handrails



Equipment Install



Swimming Pool Remodeling



Deck Remodeling



Weekly Service

We offer a range of services to remodel your pool for a contemporary look and modern functionality. Gilbert Poolman's pool remodeling services have helped many customers with their older pools and decks.

Need a consultation? We'll provide a free quote.

Our pool technicians and remodeling teams are standing by to help with your pool. Talk to us today about specials and get a free quote on your pool remodeling project.

480.960.0018

www.gilbertpoolremodeling.com

BUSINESS

IN BRIEF



ViaWest Group has announced the addition of HonorHealth as a major new tenant at Chandler Integrated Care Campus, a medical office conversion project in progress at 2700 W. Frye Rd. in Chandler, just east of Loop 101. (Courtesy of ViaWest Group)

HonorHealth to lease medical space in west Chandler

ViaWest Group has announced the addition of HonorHealth as a major new tenant at Chandler Integrated Care Campus, a medical office conversion project in progress at 2700 W. Frye Road in Chandler, just east of Loop 101.

HonorHealth will lease 50,000 square feet at Chandler Integrated Care Campus for its Arizona Center for Cancer Care as well as primary care, pain management and breast surgery services.

According to JLL, Chandler's medical office building direct vacancy rate has held at sub-10% since early 2018, with only one new building delivery in 2021 and limited land available for new construction. The property is only one mile from Dignity Chandler Regional Medical Center and is fewer than three miles from Banner Ocotillo Medical Center.

Chandler Intel plants, layoffs addressed by CEO

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The CEO of Chandler's largest employer made some recent statements that could further impact life in the city — or at least how many people work at one location.

Intel Corp. reported second-quarter 2025 financial results that were accompanied by a letter to employees from CEO Lip-Bu Tan, who was named to the role in March. He said second-quarter numbers show “a first step in the right direction.”

“Our operational results give me confidence we have what it takes to win. We will meet this moment – by building a new Intel for a new era.”

Intel filed a notice with the Arizona De-

• See **Layoffs** on page 26



Workers move a crane in 2023 on one of Intel's new facilities in south Chandler. Intel Corp. reported second-quarter 2025 financial results that were accompanied by a letter to employees from CEO Lip-Bu Tan, who was named to the role in March, with a few words directed at Chandler operations and about-to-be-former and recently laid-off employees. (Intel Corp.)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

‘Green’ golf company tees up new Chandler digs

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Dixon Golf, a manufacturer of high-performance, eco-friendly golf balls, announced the opening of its new corporate headquarters July 24.

The company is moving from Gilbert to 3245 N. Nevada St., which is in a business park neighborhood along Arizona Avenue in north Chandler.

Chandler's Economic Development team, in a news release, called Dixon's new 10,000-square-foot facility “state of the art,” saying it reinforces Dixon's commitment to sustainability and innovation.

• See **Golf** on page 13



Dixon Golf, a manufacturer of high-performance, eco-friendly golf balls, announced the opening of its new corporate headquarters July 24. The company is moving from Gilbert to 3245 N. Nevada St., which is in a business park neighborhood along Arizona Avenue in north Chandler. (City of Chandler)

YOUR GATE NEED AN UPDATE?



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



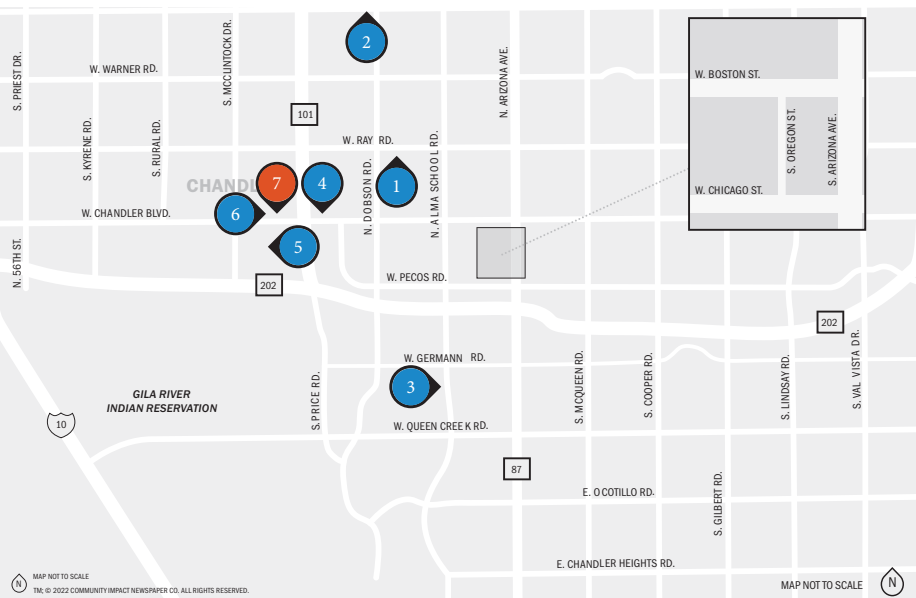
RENOVATE
YOUR GATE

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

TEXT/CALL **480.331.3704** • [RENOVATEYOURGATE.COM](https://www.renovateyourgate.com)



BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Jason Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

OPENINGS

1 Tinted Salt is open in the center on the southeast corner of Ray and Dobson Roads, in north Chandler, between Earthwise Pet Supply & Grooming and the Valle Luna restaurant. Halotherapy, red light therapy, vibroacoustic therapy and “The Harmonic Egg” are among the spa’s services. The hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the weekends. The address is 1949 W. Ray Road, unit 16. Contact the staff through tintedsalt.com or by calling 480-899-8468.

2 Eddie’s Philly Cheesesteaks & Hoagies has been opened on the northwest corner of Dobson and Elliott roads, behind Batteries Plus. The shop was opened by a former employee of another north Chandler shop, Philly’s Famous. The elementary East Coast-style sandwich shop fare uses thin-sliced ribeye, Amoroso rolls with melted Whiz, provolone, or American cheese on its cheesesteaks. The shop also serves chicken steaks and hoagies in an environment that embraces Philadelphia Eagles fans,

Rocky Balboa and more of the southeastern Pennsylvania sports scene. The hours are Mondays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed Sundays. The address is 3016 N. Dobson Road, Suite 9. Find the shop on the Facebook page called “Eddie’s Philly” or call 480-504-5274.

3 Morning Jam is a diner-and-more that’s opened in the former Brekky Brunch location in a center on the southwest corner of Alma School and Germann roads in south Chandler. Some of the breakfast platters are rock-themed, such as Comfortably Numb and Bennie and The Jets. There are some fairly unique items like baked French toast, “The Bourdain” sandwich and the “Spanglish breakfast sammy” that has a fried egg, garlic aioli and Gouda, along with chilaquiles and other traditional plates. Pastries and coffees are there, too. The cafe opens daily at 7 a.m. and is open until 2 p.m. weekdays and until 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Contact the cafe at 480-571-9225 or through morningjamaz.com.



TINTED SALT



EDDIE’S



MORNING JAM



DAVE’S HOT CHICKEN



JAMES AVERY



PARIS BAGUETTE

4 Dave’s Hot Chicken, is now open on Chandler Boulevard, just east of I-10, in a center anchored by Lowe’s Home Improvement. The fast-food chicken chain has sandwiches, sliders, tenders, family meals, fries and shakes. The hours are 10 a.m. to midnight, seven days per week. The address is 2760 W. Chandler Blvd. Visit daveshotchicken.com or the chain’s Facebook or Instagram pages to find out more.

5 James Avery Artisan Jewelry has opened on the first level of the Chandler Fashion Center mall. The family-owned jewelry retailer was founded in Kerrville, Texas, where it still designs and crafts 90% of its sterling silver and 14K gold jewelry. It has expanded into Arizona with the opening of two new stores in Chandler and Glendale and is offering a limited-time annual discount on select items. The design center in Texas had to close temporarily due to deadly flooding in the area, but has re-opened. The company asks for patience with delays on orders from the facility, in the weeks and months ahead, as it gets back to speed. Visit jamesavery.com or @jamesavery on Instagram.

6 Paris Baguette Bakeries have opened a fourth Arizona location. That’s at 3450-E W. Chandler Blvd., in a Walmart / Hobby Lobby center across from the Fashion Center. The bakery specializes in cakes, both ready-made and made on 24 or 36 hours notice. There are cake slices and many smaller French pastries on the menu as well, along with sandwich-typed baked meat pastries, donuts, cookies, sandwiches, wraps, coffees, frozen drinks and bread by the loaf. Learn more at parisbaguette.com.

CLOSINGS

7 Abuelo’s is down to only one Arizona location in Peoria after its west Chandler restaurant closed with no notice in mid-July. The Mexican-based cuisine sit-down restaurant, located on the north side of Chandler Boulevard, across from the Fashion Center, for about 20 years, served a wide range of entrees, mixed drinks and appetizers. The move wasn’t a surprise for the Abuelo’s chain, which has closed several locations over the past 12 months in a few states, including near its headquarters in Texas. The removal of the Chandler local leaves only 17 on its abuelos.com.

FROM THE COVER

Signs

• From page 1

"If we wait until Aug. 11 to approve this, it wouldn't be effective until Sept. 10," Hartke told the council. "If we pass it tonight, it takes effect Aug. 27. The first day signs can be posted is Aug. 25. We'll miss the starting date by a couple of days. But we can avoid unnecessary confusion, as well as retro action by the city and citizens."

Hartke said the ordinance going into effect at the start of Chandler's election season will still allow for staff to educate the public about main aspects of Ordinance 5133.

Council is taking a \$475 million bond package proposal and two charter amendment proposals to voters on Nov. 4.

Councilmember O.D. Harris said

he supports the ordinance, but wants to meet with mayor and council this fall to address sign content. He held up a July 14 work session in an attempt to convince Hartke and City Attorney Kelly Schwab to allow for an executive session or any other type of meeting prior to a vote on tentatively adopting Ordinance 5133 during its July 17 regular meeting, but they didn't budge.

He said he wanted to add language to the ordinance that would address "false signs that attack citizens or businesses."

Schwab told Harris that cities don't regulate content historically and have run into constitutional issues in regulating sign content.

Hartke said it was important to pass Ordinance 5133 this month, as the provisions are critical for the fall 2025 election cycle.

Schwab said that still will give



Chandler City Council member O.D. Harris speaks during a recent meeting. An ordinance about campaign sign contact information was adopted by council at a July 28 special meeting. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

city staff time to set up public education and begin enforcing provisions of the new ordinance as soon as it takes effect, even though that effective date will be a few weeks into the Arizona "hands-off" temporary sign period.

A staff report states the intent behind Ordinance 5133 is to ensure people or entities that post temporary signs in a public right of way

are held responsible for the location and placement of signs.

It authorizes the city's zoning administrator, or their designee — in Chandler's case code enforcement officers — to remove "illegal" temporary signs from the public rights of way and require all temporary signs to be marked with the name and phone number of a responsible person or group.



WE STAND BEHIND THE EXPERTISE OF OUR TRUSTED TECHS

\$54.95

Castrol Full Synthetic Oil Change*

(up to 5 qts oil & filter, European, exotic, & diesel are additional.)
MUST PRESENT COUPON AT CHECK IN.

FREE Second Opinion

Bring us a written estimate from any certified service center to receive 5% OR MORE off their best price!
Maximum discount \$250



SCHEDULE TODAY!



R Rotten Rottie
42 reviews ★★★★★ 3 days ago

My visit was perfect. Fast efficient good quality repair, at a reasonable price. They towed my vehicle in to their shop for free. Their estimate came in \$1200 cheaper than my insurance estimate. My insurance cut me a check for their estimate which covered my deductible and rental car and put about \$500 in my pocket, after paying my bill at highline. I highly recommend!

CHANDLER INDEPENDENT

Your Local Team



Richard Dyer
Managing Editor
rdyer@iniusa.org



Caroline Yu
Reporter
cyu@iniusa.org



Heather DeBrosse
Multimedia Advertising Consultant
hdebrosse@iniusa.org



Jason Brooks
Editor
jbrooks@iniusa.org



Lori Schroeder
Multimedia Advertising Consultant
lschroeder@iniusa.org



Mona Lisa Navarrette
Graphic Designer
mnavarrette@iniusa.org



Michelle Gavagan
Multimedia Advertising Consultant
mgavagan@iniusa.org



Erik Maurer
Graphic Designer
emaurer@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.....trodders@iniusa.org
Digital Sales Manager: Austin Moose.....amoose@iniusa.org
Editor-In-Chief: Patrick O'Grady.....pograde@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

Chandler Independent e-subscriptions
yourvalley.net/subscribe-today/

Memberships



© 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.

OPINION

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.

More than a home: Preserving Native American culture through foster care

In Arizona, 12% of children in foster care are of Native American descent — but heartbreakingly, only about 3% of foster homes reflect their culture. This stark gap matters deeply because it shows how easily a child can lose their sense of identity, their connection to ancestors, language, tradition and home.

As a Native mother, foster parent and adoptive mom to three beautiful children, I know how essential it is for kids to stay rooted in their heritage while in care.

My journey began in 2012 when my husband, Tecumseh, and I became foster parents after working with Tribal Social Services and Arizona Department of Child Safety. In just 12 months, we welcomed three newborns — the youngest arriving at just 2 days old — all Native siblings and far too young to know and maintain their traditions or native language.

Navigating court dates, paperwork, sleepless nights and longing for a path forward, we learned quickly that maintaining cultural connection isn't a luxury; it's a sacred lifeline.

That deep need inspired me in 2014 to found Three Precious Miracles — a nonprofit organization providing culturally sensitive support and resources for Native children in foster care.

From basic care packages to training and cultural events, our mission is to ensure displaced children don't lose their cultural identity in the system. Over the last decade, we've supported thousands of children, but there remains a gap too wide to ignore. We need more Native foster parents that can keep Native chil-

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.

dren rooted in their culture.

When children grow up separated from their traditions, we risk erasing their sense of belonging. In foster care, the best scenario is a child returning home to a family that's improved their living situation and learned how to better support their child.

If that's not possible, a child remaining connected to their birth family is the next best option and with both, it's important for children to retain their culture: the taste of fry bread, the rituals of ceremonies, the healing power of family songs and prayers, even having their hair braided is a foundation of belonging. When these practices are disrupted, a child's sense of self may be, too.

For Native children, the Indian Child Welfare Act rightly emphasizes cultural continuity through kinship, and tribal placement is vital. With only 3% of foster homes currently reflecting Native heritage, we need more homes and hearts that understand tribal values of respect, community and ceremony. We need caregivers who can teach children their language, guide them through sacred customs and sit with them in ceremony and nurture their souls.

This need extends far beyond Native communities. Foster children come from varied backgrounds — Latin American, African American, Asian American and more. Each child deserves caregivers who share their cultural touchstones. Matching ethnic and cultural background is more than representation, it's reas-

• See **Letters** on page 11

SPEAK UP

Here are some recent online comments about Chandler Independent items:

"RUSSIA STILL GETTING CHIPS FROM SOME ARIZONA MANUFACTURERS FOR WARPLANES DESPITE BAN":

"Because trump is allowing it."

— **Chris Estrada via story comment**

"Mr. Kelly, Mr. Gallego and Gov. Hobbs, what do you have to say about your not paying attention to who in Arizona is still helping an enemy state?"

— **#AMR via story comment**

"Are they sure they are new and not stockpiled?"

— **Who me? via story comment**

"OK, so this proves that war is a live video game for the old guards. They build war machines and the people are simply the pieces on a chess board. We sell weapons and tech to so-called enemies. They're all in it together. It's the extreme rich against the rest of us, not country versus country. So sad, so pathetic."

— **Jay Ro via story comment**

Got a comment on a story you've recently seen? Email us at azopinions@iniusa.org with the name of the story and a one- or two-line comment.

OPINION

Letters

• From page 10

surance.

Every child deserves a home that knows the stories their ancestors told, the songs sung. Representation isn't just about faces—it's about feeling seen, heard and understood.

To families that have ever felt called to foster, I say: You are needed. Consider what traditions you could preserve — the Sundays at church, the family recipes, the rites of passage you uphold. Are you ready to become part of a story that helps a child hold on when the world feels uncertain? Because that's what cultural fidelity offers: a compass pointing to who they are, even when life feels uncertain.

Arizona's Department of Child Safety is constantly working to recruit culturally diverse foster families. Yet recruitment alone won't close the gap — we all must actively support and encourage it. Talk to your tribe, your church, your community leaders. Organize cultural mentoring groups. Host dinners or workshops to help families understand how to care for children from diverse backgrounds. Every voice helps.

When children feel seen and understood, they are more likely to thrive in school, in relationships and in healing from loss. Their culture

becomes a source of resilience and pride.

I speak from lived experience. My husband and I were guided into this journey by the Creator, and the blessings we've received in return have been beyond anything we imagined. Our three children are not only the heart of our family, they're the reason Three Precious Miracles exists.

I urge every Arizonan who values cultural connection — to consider fostering. Our children deserve shelter, but also they deserve history, language, ceremony, cultural conversations and traditions and a sense of belonging. When we open our homes, we don't just nurture children; we sustain communities.

The future is calling and our children are waiting for a home that mirrors them, affirms them and celebrates them. Will you be the one to stand up, say "yes" and help preserve culture one child at a time?

Elisia Manuel

*Gila River Indian Community
Editor's note: Elisia Manuel is a part of the Gila River Indian Community, a foster care parent and founder of Three Precious Miracles, a Sacaton-based nonprofit supporting Native children since 2014.*

Why Valley parents shouldn't ignore children's foot pain

As a parent, you've likely seen

your child limp after sports practice or complain of heel pain. These issues, while common, often signal the need for specialized care.

Children's feet are not just smaller versions of adult feet — they're constantly growing and changing. This makes early attention to potential problems critical for ensuring healthy development and long-term mobility.



Mikkel Jarman

Why timely care is essential

Growth plates in children's feet remain open until the late teenage years, making early intervention vital. Ignoring minor issues can lead to significant problems affecting mobility and quality of life.

Flat feet, for example, might seem normal in young children, but persistent pain or difficulty walking warrants evaluation. Similarly, heel pain from conditions like Sever's disease is common in active kids and can often be managed with proper care.

When to seek help

Certain signs indicate it's time to consult a specialist:

- Persistent pain or discomfort, especially during activities.
- Difficulty walking or participating in usual activities.
- Swelling, redness, or signs of

infection.

• Uneven shoe wear, which may point to alignment or gait issues.

Many parents believe they need a referral to see a specialist, but this is often unnecessary. Early evaluation can prevent complications and provide peace of mind.

Practical tips for parents

• **Choose proper footwear:** Look for shoes with a wide toe box, good arch support, and flexible yet sturdy soles.

• **Encourage barefoot play:** This strengthens foot muscles and improves balance.

• **Monitor growth:** Check shoe sizes regularly, as children's feet grow rapidly.

• **Stay active:** Activities like swimming, dancing, or simple stretching exercises promote foot strength and coordination.

The impact of early intervention

One young athlete I treated struggled with persistent heel pain, making soccer nearly impossible. After an evaluation and custom orthotics, they returned to the field pain-free and more confident than ever.

Stories like this highlight the transformative power of early care.

Empowering parents: As a parent, you know your child best. If something doesn't seem right, trust

• See **Letters** on page 13

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.

TRANSPORTATION

Compiled by
Jason W. Brooks

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

1 Frye Road, from Hamilton Street to Arizona Avenue, will be the site of a full westbound closure through Thursday, Sept. 18. The estimated 58-day milling and paving operation is road work that's part of the Frye Road Bike Lane Project.

The Germann Road and Arizona Avenue intersection area will be the site of arterial and side street weekend closures through July 25. The 30-day project is for utility work. There are also minor weekday delays possible in both directions along Germann Road, on either side of Arizona Avenue.

2 Price Road, from Loop 202 to as far south as Germann Road, will be the site of minor restrictions

through the estimation completion date of Nov. 30. The estimated 469-day sewer bypass and re-lining will affect both southbound and north bound traffic, in various spots along Price Road. A part of the bypass, from Spectrum Boulevard to Queen Creek Road, is expected to be completed by Aug. 31.

3 Price and Queen Creek roads, from will be the site of installation of concrete "k-rail" barriers through Dec. 19. The barrier installation is a estimated 395-day project.

4 The McQueen Road ramp onto westbound Loop 202 is expected to be closed through Thursday, Sept. 11 on weekends only for demolition, flatwork, a catch basin and other related work. The estimated 125-day weekend project also affects turn lanes leading toward the

ramp.

5 Toledo and Vine Street, south of Erie Street, will be the site of a complete closures, except for local traffic, through Thursday, Aug. 21. The estimated 16-day closure is for utility work.

6 Pleasant Drive, from Galveston Street to Chandler Boulevard, along with one-block sections of Oakland and Tyson streets, will be the site of complete closures through Thursday, Aug. 21. The estimated 39-day



closure is for utility work.

7 Arizona Avenue, from Pecos Road to Germann Road, will be the site of major weekend restrictions through Monday, Sept. 22. The estimated 162-day project is for a variety of purposes, including rebar work and a catch basin.



two maids

A Maid Service Worth Talking About

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL

\$100 OFF

Recurring Cleaning

(\$20 off first 5 visits) Offer expires 9-30-25.

\$150 OFF

Deep Clean or Move In/ Move Out Clean

First time customers only. One time use with coupon. Offer expires 9-30-25.



Let Life Shine

License #00825-2018

480-550-8282 • TwoMaidsCleaning.com

BUSINESS

Golf

• From page 6

The new headquarters is designed with future expansion in mind, the release states, allowing Dixon Golf to scale operations as demand grows for its environmentally friendly products.

Micah Miranda, director of economic development for Chandler, told Independent Newsmedia previously that his team spends far more time on locating, relocating and helping meet needs of small and midsize business compared to that of giant corporations.

Developing a “green-tech” private sector of companies that are environmentally conscious is a stated Chandler priority, Miranda said in the release.

“Dixon Golf’s investment in Uptown Chandler is a strong endorsement of the employment corridor as a magnet for innovative and entrepreneurial companies,” Miranda said. “Their presence brings high-quality jobs, supports our growing clean-tech sector, and reinforces Chandler’s reputation as a premier destination for companies committed to both performance and purpose.”

William Carey, CEO of Dixon

Golf, also touched on sustainability in his statement about the move to Chandler.

“Our new headquarters embodies Dixon Golf’s mission to lead the golf industry towards a greener future,” Carey stated. “By integrating sustainable practices into our operations, we’re setting a new standard for what it means to be an eco-conscious company.”

The facility boasts numerous features, including energy-efficient systems, desert landscaping and minimal waste practices in its daily operations.

The release states those initiatives align with the company’s broader environmental goals.

The company’s website, dixon-golf.com, brags on its “Greenovations” program, which Dixon says focuses on reducing the manufacturing footprint with a “reduce, reuse and recycle” model.

Founded in 2008, Dixon products include its Dixon “Earth,” “Wind” and “Fire” golf balls. Its main sustainability claim is its golf balls “are comprised of heavy earth salts rather than heavy metal fillers.”

The company also sells hats that it states are made from bamboo or organic cotton that is not chemically treated.

OPINION

Letters

• From page 11

your instincts and seek guidance. Early evaluation by a pediatric foot and ankle specialist can make a significant difference in your child’s overall well-being and long-term mobility.

For concerns about your child’s foot or ankle health, consult a qual-

ified specialist. Addressing issues early ensures proper development and supports a healthy, active life.

Mikkel Jarman

Editor’s note: Mikkel Jarman, DPM, FACFAS is a pediatric foot and ankle surgeon with Pediatric Foot & Ankle, practicing in Gilbert and Chandler.

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



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

FROM THE COVER

Salaries

• From page 1

change over the next few years, but not overnight.

And the city's C-suite, or administrative executives — department heads and city and assistant managers — appears to be headed to cost the city even more in the years ahead.

Ramer was Chandler's top gross income earner in 2024, making more than \$344,000 during the year. Ramer, who was one of the five finalists interviewed for the chief position in early spring of 2024, decided to retire Nov. 9 after more than 25 years of service.

Chandler's communications director, Matt Burdick, said it's not unusual for late-career or retiring management to be paid out large sums, somewhat skewing the list of who has the highest base salary.

"Those who are listed as retired would have received pay for any eligible leave and retirement benefits as part of their compensation last year," Burdick told Independent Newsmedia.

Ramer made even more than City Manager Josh Wright, the top-paid 2022 employee in the Independent's reporting in 2023. In 2024, Wright made almost \$330,000, making him among the seven highest-paid city managers in the Valley.

That turned out to be the last full

calendar year Wright will be with the city. Despite having a year left on a two-year contract — a year in which he would have made \$375,000 — Wright left the city Aug. 1 for a University of Arizona administrative position.

The third highest-paid Chandler employee in 2024 was another retiring police officer. Ron Emary retired last summer, having put in 40-plus years, and made almost \$295,000 in the final calendar year of his career.

Chandler City Council member Jennifer Hawkins said she wants the search for Wright's permanent replacement to have more of what she considers transparency than the recent process to hire Acting City Manager John Pombier for \$30,000 per month. "My priorities will be for the search to be nationwide, to bring in at least a handful of good applicants for interviews and allowing the community and staff to interact with the finalists," Hawkins said. "It's a hot button when people see the large number as a listed salary. Unfortunately, that's what the going rate is, and we have talented staff that other cities try to approach, and we have to remain competitive."

The next person on the top 2024 salaries list is also Chandler Police. Lt. David Selvidge made almost \$271,000 in 2024.

There are seven more Chandler Police employees on the top 25 list, including two assistant chiefs and

four sergeants.

There are only two Chandler Fire Department employees who were among the city's top earners. Capt. Tom Shaw, who retired in August, made almost as much (\$247,000) as his boss, Chief Tom Dwiggins (\$254,000).

Assistant City Manager Tadd Willie made almost \$267,000 in 2024. The rest of the list are mostly department directors.

Burdick himself is one of those directors, making almost \$223,000 last year. That's an increase of about \$38,000 in only a two-year span for largely the same position and duties.

The salary budget for the Chandler Municipal Court is set to rise as well. Presiding Magistrate Alicia Skupin just inked a two-year contract with the city that will pay her \$271,000 for fiscal 2026, which ends June 30 of next year, and \$294,000 for fiscal 2027, which runs July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

City Magistrates Michelle Lue Sang, Alexa Nolle and Scott Silva are also contracted through June 30, 2027. They'll each make \$209,000 this year and \$217,000 in 2026-27.

All of the city's top 25 salaries are greater than \$200,000. Those top both the mean and median for the richest of Chandler's six ZIP codes, 85249.

Hawkins said the next Chandler city manager and other C-suite hires shouldn't necessarily keep the city in

TOP 25 CITY OF CHANDLER SALARIES, 2024

POSITION & TITLE HELD BY (as of Dec. 31, 2024)	2024 GROSS SALARY
Dave Ramer, Asst. Police Chief	\$344,000
Josh Wright, City Manager	\$330,000
Ron Emary, Police Officer	\$295,000
Lt. David Selvidge, Chandler Police	\$271,000
Tadd Willie, Asst. City Manager	\$267,000
Kelly Schwab, City Attorney	\$260,000
Dawn Lang, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer	\$255,000
Tom Dwiggins, Fire Chief	\$254,000
Capt. Tom Shaw, Chandler Fire	\$248,000
Andy Bass, Deputy City Manager	\$246,000
Alicia Morrison Skupin, Presiding City Magistrate	\$238,000
Micah Miranda, Economic Development Director	\$236,000
Melissa Deanda, Asst. Police Chief	\$236,000
John Knudson, Public Works & Utilities Director	\$233,000
Robert Garduno, Police Officer	\$231,000
Sgt. Christopher Kush, Chandler Police	\$230,000
Sgt. Chad Ecalono, Chandler Police	\$224,000
Sandip Dholakia, Chief Information Officer	\$223,000
Matt Burdick, Communications & Public Affairs Director	\$223,000
Jason Sieczkowski, Asst. Police Chief	\$221,000
John Sefton, Community Services Director	\$217,000
Sgt. Douglas Scholz, Chandler Police	\$217,000
Leah Powell, Neighborhood Resources Director	\$209,000
Sgt. Jason Barnes, Chandler Police	\$207,000
Kim Moyers, Cultural Development Director	\$207,000

Source: City of Chandler

a salary arms race for top-paid talent.

"Even during negotiations, we can get creative and offer things that make talent want to stay," Hawkins said. "It's nice to see that we aren't simply battling against cities next door."

Your Custom Jewelry Specialist

Watch Battery Replacement

\$8

One coupon per customer
Limited 2
Some Restrictions Apply
Expires 9/30/25

Custom Jewelry Creation

Watch Batteries & Servicing

Jewelry Repairs

Gold Buy - Appraisals

35 YEARS EXPERIENCE





Billie's Custom Jewelers

2945 E Riggs Rd #11 Chandler, AZ 85249

www.BilliesCustomJewelers.com

(480) 388-6967

Tri Huynh Jeweler | Owner

Chandler Air

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING



an **Any Hour** company



DON'T WAIT TO **SAVE BIG** ON YOUR NEXT SERVICE!

FINANCING

0%
APR
ON NEW
A/C SYSTEM



REPAIR

\$50 OFF
ANY REPAIR OF
\$200 OR MORE



MAINTENANCE

10% OFF
MAINTENANCE
REPAIR



\$29
HEATING
TUNE-UP



GET UP TO
\$1,125
BACK ON A NEW
ENERGY-EFFICIENT A/C

All offers in this ad are for residential owner-occupied homes only. Not valid with other offers. Must present at time of service. Doesn't apply to past work. Call for details.

Chandler Air

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING



an **Any Hour** company

480-630-7675
www.ChandlerAir.com



EDUCATION

IN BRIEF

Degree, dean's list honor for Chandler students

College students with Chandler ties continue to rake in the accolades from the past few months.

Paige Morris, the daughter of Andy and Michelle Morris of Chandler, earned a bachelor's degree in the spring of 2025 from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Brendan Manning, a business administration major with management concentration, made the dean's list this spring at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. He was one of 674 St. Anselm students from one of 22 states at the school, exceeding the 3.4 GPA requirement for the dean's list.

Chandler-area students shine at national SkillsUSA event

Several Chandler-area students earned national recognition at the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships, held in late June in Atlanta.

Students competed in 114 hands-on events, ranging from robotics and criminal justice to public speaking and aviation maintenance. First-place winners from each state advanced to this national competition, where they

• See **Education** on page 27

CUSD: Language specialists moved based on need

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Kimberly Christ said she and other Chandler Unified teachers and parents are "devastated at the removal" of a part-time language specialist position at Jacobsen Elementary School.

Chandler Unified leadership said that's not a fair representation of a set of school-year staffing changes and assignments this summer.

Before CUSD students went back to school July 17, Christ, a retired 33-year teacher, and others came to a Chandler Unified governing board meeting to address changes with staff in English language development.

"How can you eliminate a program just because we got good at instructing our students at English-language proficiency?" Christ asked. "That's not how you promote professionalism."

But the specialist, Jann Johnson, mentioned by a handful of people who spoke has simply been assigned to other campuses, district officials told Independent Newsmedia.

Dr. Korrey Brenner, CUSD's director of federal programs, said all Chandler students get English-language



Retired teacher Kimberly Christ speaks at a Chandler Unified governing board meeting. Christ and other educators and parents criticized the district for "removing" an English language development program that's required by state law; CUSD leaders say staff are simply reassigned on a regular basis. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

development if they need it.

"Schools are required to provide ELD for all students whose primary language is other than English," Brenner said. "And we provide it at all our of schools. No student has to travel anywhere to get it."

Brenner said Arizona only funds 2.5 ELD specialist teacher positions for CUSD, while the district has chosen to fund 18 during the past school years. That still stretches most specialists between at least two of Chan-

dler's 49 sites.

Brenner said only 12 of CUSD's elementary schools have a full-time ELD teacher for targeted small-group services.

Dr. Jennifer Fletcher, CUSD's assistant superintendent for pre-K-12 student services, said assignments of ELD teachers to each campus are based on need. The district does its best each spring and early summer to allocate ELD teachers to campus-

• See **Language** on page 27

chandler
MUSEUM



Gaman

February 4, 2025 - January 26, 2026



iMONSTRAS!

April 26, 2025 - August 31, 2025



Pony Up!

May 9, 2025 - Spring 2026

Visit our website



chandlermuseum.org

EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW

Free Admission

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



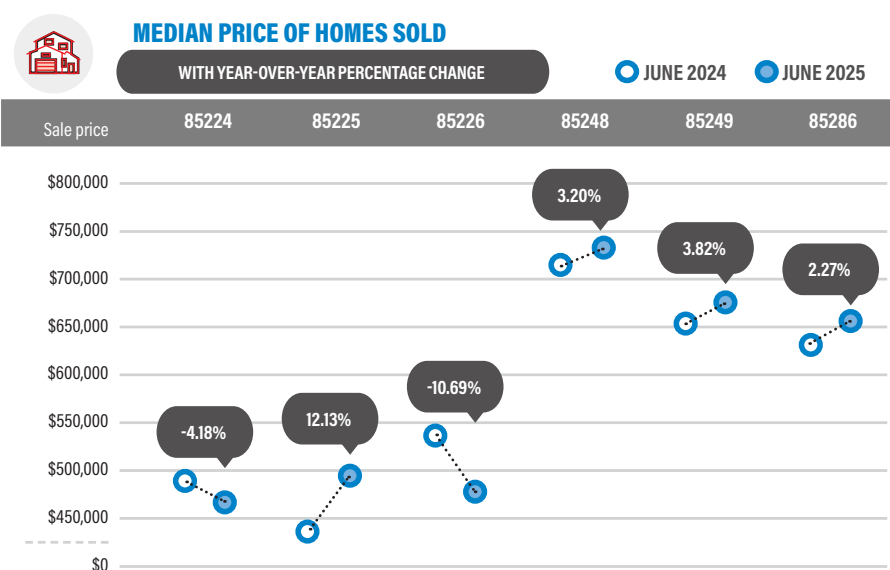
You can't spell moments without mom.

That's why from the moment you find out, to the moment you meet, we're here for you. Dignity Health Arizona's family birth centers provide spacious, comfortable rooms with all the resources you need for this precious moment.

Bringing your baby into the world takes a team. Our team is here for it all. Learn more at dignityhealth.org/azbaby.



REAL ESTATE



DATA PROVIDED BY KATIE TAYLOR OF THE GOODMAN
TAYLOR TEAM

katie@thegoodmantaylorteam.com
480-220-6364



NUMBER OF HOMES ON THE MARKET

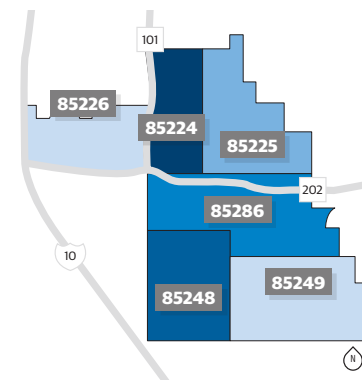
	JUNE 2024	JUNE 2025
85224	38	84
85225	91	170
85226	35	74
85248	62	106
85249	105	198
85286	74	128

AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET

	JUNE 2024	JUNE 2025
85224	45	52
85225	33	63
85226	33	46
85248	65	91
85249	46	73
85286	34	70

NUMBER OF HOMES UNDER CONTRACT

	JUNE 2024	JUNE 2025
85224	36	40
85225	52	72
85226	40	33
85248	21	26
85249	55	65
85286	41	52



AIR DUCT & DRYER VENT CLEANING

Reduce the Desert Dust in your House

UV Air Sterilization

Purified air throughout your entire home

- Safely & effectively eliminates airborne allergens, bacteria, viruses, mold, fungi and more
- Reduces odors by treating at the AC/furnace with UV sterilization all day
- Allergy/Asthma relief

Call for more info!

Is your dryer taking too long to dry your laundry?
You may have a clogged dryer vent.

Clogged dryer vents can cause fires as well as cost you extra money on your energy bill.

We can clean your vents to help keep your home safer and your energy bills lower.

Clean your dryer vent if you have...

- Accumulation of lint/debris
- A dryer that is hot to the touch
- To use more than one drying cycle
- Musty smelling laundry

AIR DUCT CLEANING by JOHN

Service 7 days a week

Don't wait. Call today!

480-912-0881

Family Owned Business - Licensed & Insured. *Se habla Español

MERCHANT SQUARE

HALLOWEEN MARKET & ANTIQUE STORE

Unique Vintage, Home Decor, Vintage Furniture, Collectibles, Vintage Clothing, Tools, Jewelry & So Much More!

Open 7 Days Per Week! Plus, visit our Halloween Market Happening Sept 4th-7th & Sept 11th-14th!

MerchantSquareAntiques.com

1509 N Arizona Ave in Chandler

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 09/15/25. 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.



Call for a free in home design consultation and estimate

480-764-2884 IN

[closetsbydesign.com](https://www.closetsbydesign.com)



Locally Owned and Operated. Licensed and Insured: ROC312904

ClosetsbyDesign®

THINGS TO DO

Chandler Orchestra announces pops guest artists

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Chandler Symphony Orchestra has announced its guest artists for its Jan. 25, 2026 pops concert.

Fronting the orchestra this season will be Jordan and Kaitlynn Bluth. They're a Mesa couple who will be singing the timeless songs of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and others.

The couple will perform again at the Chandler Center for the Arts in what the orchestra calls, in a news release, a fortunate win.

Tickets are not yet available for purchase, but will be

within the month. CSO will send out a special message when the box office is loaded with tickets for the show.

Donations are gratefully received by CSO at its concerts, or online anytime by clicking here: tinyurl.com/487thmp2.

Donation checks can be mailed to the Chandler Symphony Orchestra, P.O. Box 6475, Chandler, AZ 85246. IRA funds available for donations can be sent directly from an account to CSO; email info@chandlersymphony.com for details.

All donations are fully tax deductible.



Jordan and Kaitlyn Bluth are a Mesa couple who will sing the songs of Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and others. The couple will return to the Chandler Center for the Arts as the Chandler Symphony Orchestra's guest artists for its Jan. 25, 2026 pops concert. (Courtesy photos)



New Bakery Breakfast!

New breakfast options
Better coffee and tea
Same great bread



A GREAT WAY TO KICK-OFF YOUR DAY!

1730 E Warner Road @ McClintock
Tempe, AZ 85284 • (480)777-1141
TempeGreatHarvest.com @TEMPEGHB





Gilbert Is Now Open Everyday For Lunch!

www.verochicagopizza.com

20% OFF

Any Dine-In Order.

*Must present coupon at time of payment for redemption

*ONLY VALID AT EITHER THE GILBERT OR CHANDLER VERO CHICAGO PIZZA LOCATIONS - LIMIT ONE PER USER **EXCLUDES ALL ALCOHOL**

20% OFF

Any In-Store or Online, Pick-up Order.

*Must present coupon at time of pickup for redemption, online use code below

'PICKUPGC'

*ONLY VALID AT EITHER THE GILBERT OR CHANDLER VERO CHICAGO PIZZA LOCATIONS - CANNOT USE COUPON WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

GILBERT
1431 E Williams Field Rd Suite 104, Gilbert, AZ 85295

CHANDLER
5070 S Gilbert Rd Suite 400, Chandler, AZ 85249

VERO CHICAGO PIZZA

CONCERT

VOYD show in Chandler in October

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Aftershock, a sub-brand of promoter Relentless Beats, has announced an Oct. 4 concert event featuring VOYD, the darker, heavier, and more theatrical extension of deathcore producer Svdden Death.

The one-day event, titled "Forsaken Sands" and presented by Svdden Death, will take place at Wild Horse Pass festival grounds in Chandler on Oct. 4.

Forsaken Sands is the most recent concert announcement by Relentless Beats at the Rawhide Event Center, which includes SHAQ's Bass All-Stars (Aug. 16), Wooli (Aug. 30), Seven Lions (Oct. 14), and Chris Lake (Dec. 13).

Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks; in the meantime, fans can sign up for tickets at this link: tinyurl.com/mrsne7f9

Tickets will start at \$60 for General Admission and \$145 for VIP and are available online at relentlessbeats.com.

Visit relentlessbeats.com for the most up-to-date information on all



Aftershock, a sub-brand of promoter, Relentless Beats, has announced a an Oct. 4 concert event featuring VOYD, the darker, heavier, and more theatrical extension of producer Svdden Death. (Courtesy of Caren West PR)

Relentless Beats events.

Stay connected on Instagram and Twitter at @RelentlessBeats and on Facebook on the Relentless Beats page.



OSTRICH EXERCISE

Ollie the Ostrich hits the weights at the Tumbleweed Recreation Center in July. The stuffed creature was photographed by recreation users who were entered into a weekly prize drawing during July, which was National Parks and Recreation Month. (Courtesy of city of Chandler)

12th Annual

GARLIC FESTIVAL

Weekends:

Sept. 13 - 14 & Sept. 20 - 21

Free Admission | Free Parking

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GRILL AT THE MILL SEPT 1	SANGRIA SOCIAL OCT 11, NOV 15, DEC 27
OLIVE TO PAINT & SIP VISIT WEBSITE FOR TICKETS SEPT 24	OLIVEPALOOZA HARVEST CELEBRATION DEC 13 - 14

QUEEN CREEK
OLIVE MILL
ARIZONA

ENJOY AWARD-WINNING CHINESE FOOD

Dragon Wok

FINE CHINESE RESTAURANT

727 W Ray Rd B1,
Gilbert, AZ 85233

(480) 782-6889

DragonWok.biz

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS:

\$4 Beer, \$5 House Wine,
\$6 Sm. Saki Bomber,
\$7 Cocktails,
\$3 OFF Appetizers,
4-7pm

10% OFF LUNCH

15% OFF DINNER ORDER OF \$50 OR MORE

Excludes Happy Hour Specials & Alcohol.

Dine In, Pick Up, Delivery

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mayor

• From page 4

eliminating any language about taking two years off in between.

The beneficiary of such an amendment passing would be Matt Orlando. He's the longtime City Councilmember who has also filed a statement of intent to run for mayor in 2026 — in his eighth consecutive year on council, and without taking two years off.

Orlando told the Chandler Independent he's collecting signatures and making other preparations for a 2026 mayoral run, staying in touch with legal counsel and ready to make adjustments and decisions based on how this November's Chandler city charter amendment election is set-

tlled.

The only other challenger for mayor so far is Ronnie McKenzie. Not much information could be found about any Chandlerite by that name; a Ronnie McKenzie of Chandler shows LinkedIn experience at hospitals; a Ronnie C. McKenzie is listed on state documents as the statutory agent for JRP Logistics 205 LLC.

Both of the 2022-elected, first-term incumbent council members have filed statements of interest to run for a second and final consecutive term. They are Jane Poston, co-owner, with her husband, of a longtime video production and communications company, and Chandler native, immigration consulting firm manager and realtor Angel Encinas.

Bob Dalpe and Cicely Rocha-Miller have also filed statements of intent to run for council in 2026, though Dalpe told the Chandler Independent he's going to contact the City Clerk and Arizona Secretary of State's Office to see what he must do to officially drop out.

Dalpe, 56, active in veterans affairs on several fronts, is a member of Chandler's Military and Veterans Affairs Commission.

Rocha-Miller, who ran for council unsuccessfully in 2024, is the founder of an event planning company called Life Design Events and is the former director of a nonprofit that helps kids and families deal with poverty.

Alongside incumbents Christine Ellis and O.D. Harris, who ended up

being reelected, Rocha-Miller earned a Chandler Chamber of Commerce endorsement in that July 2024 council primary.

All six city council members serve at-large four-year terms in Chandler; there are no council districts.

The filing period for Arizona city council nomination petitions and papers for primary elections in 2026 will be March 7 to April 6. The deadline for filing challenges to candidate nomination petitions will be April 20.

The City Clerk's list of people who've filed a statement of interest for council or mayor candidacy in 2026 can be found here:

<https://www.chandleraz.gov/government/elections-and-voting/voter-information>

Crime

• From page 4

Overall violent crimes, according to the state's Department of Public Safety, went down from 505 to 389 in 2024, according to a report, for four high-visibility categories: murder, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault.

Chandler had eight murders in 2023, compared to only two in 2024. Sexual assaults went down from 110 to 51 — a drop of 54% — and robberies dipped slightly, from

80 to 67.

Aggravated assaults went down from 307 to 269.

Violent crime has dropped each of the past three years, according to DPS, with a slight uptick happening from 2020 to 2021. The total number reported for the four categories was as high as 647 as recently as 2017.

Chandler property crime cases cleared for four major categories went from 4,131 to 4,248. That was largely because the increase in shoplifting — one of several types of larceny crimes — drove the lar-



Violent crime dropped off significantly in Chandler Police Department reporting in 2024, but property crime rates remain high in the city. (Courtesy of Chandler Police)

ceny category up by about 8%

Meanwhile, burglaries dropped

by 12% and motor vehicle thefts declined by nearly one-third, 30%.

The statistics can be viewed at azcrimestatistics.azdps.gov/tops.

Nationally, violent crime dipped in the U.S. 3% from January 2023 to January 2024 from the year prior, while murder was down 11.6%, rape declined by 9.4%, robbery nearly held steady with a 0.3% drop and aggravated assaults were down 2.8%.

Property crime also went down in 2023 from 2022, by 2.4% over-

• See **Crime** on page 25

**Thank You For Nominating Your
East Valley Favorite Businesses!**

**Get Ready Partner'...
Voting Round Starts:
Sept. 20th - Oct. 20th
Winners Announced
December 1st**



Get to Know Arizaz Heating and Cooling: A Business with a Heart

Are you ready for an HVAC journey that goes beyond the ordinary?

Arizaz Heating and Cooling is not just another heating and air conditioning company in the Valley. They're your reliable HVAC partner with a heart, dedicated to delivering exceptional services while making a positive impact in our community.

What sets them apart is a commitment to quality service and a remarkable story.

The story begins with Robert Gracia, the owner of Arizaz Heating and Cooling. Gracia's journey is nothing short of inspirational. After serving time in prison and being released in 2018, he was determined to become a productive member of society. Armed with trade certifications, a supportive family, a strong faith, and a desire for a better life, he embarked on a path to success.

Gracia's journey to becoming a successful HVAC business owner started with his employment at Alliance Plumbing Service and Repair. He quickly moved up the ranks and transitioned into the HVAC mechanical business. Eventually, he became a

foreman for an emerging company in the area, where he was entrusted with running the HVAC division.

But Gracia had even bigger dreams. He obtained his contractor's license and realized his dream by founding Arizaz Heating and Cooling. Today, he not only provides top-quality HVAC services but also serves as an example of resilience, transformation, and dedication to the community.

Arizaz Heating and Cooling Offers:

- Competitive Pricing
- 24/7 Availability
- Free Estimates
- Budget-Friendly Options
- Energy-Efficient Units
- Discounts for First Responders and Veterans
- Giving Back to the Community

Exceptional HVAC Services

Arizaz Heating and Cooling takes pride in offering a comprehensive range of HVAC services designed to ensure your comfort year-round, including multipoint inspections to new unit installations and everything in between.

- Multipoint Inspection/Tune-Up
- New Unit Installation
- Ductless Mini Splits
- Duct Modification

For Gracia and the Arizaz Heating and Cooling team, giving back to the community is a fundamental



part of their mission. They believe that it's not just how you start in life; it's how you finish that truly matters. Gracia's commitment to his family, his role as a leader and counselor to those struggling with self-identity and addiction, and his dedication to being a productive member of society exemplify the company's core values.

Call Arizaz Heating and Cooling at 480-343-4034 or visit arizazheatingandcooling.com to schedule an appointment.



Summer Sale

- Up to \$3,000 off of new units
- \$95 Tuneup/Inspection
- Mini splits starting at \$2,999

*subject to site inspection



Helping Your Family With All Your HVAC Needs

**FREE
SERVICE CALL**

with Replacement or Repair
Must Mention Ad

Give us a call: (480) 343-4034

Send us an email: arizazco@gmail.com

On the web: arizazheatingandcooling.com

f ROC 341995 • Licensed, Bonded, and Insured



We can match or beat most competitors to earn your business and keep you as a long term customer!



MULTI-POINT INSPECTION/TUNE UP

We perform a full, multi-point tune up which includes inspection of all mechanical and electrical components. We inspect the physical condition of the unit including freon levels and condition of the condensation drain.



NO COOL OR NO HEAT SERVICE CALL

We perform a multi-point inspection to determine what the problem is. We take photos and give a full report to determine the best action to get your unit up and running as quick as possible. 100% satisfaction before we leave!



NEW UNIT INSTALLATION

Call or message us today to learn about deals we are currently offering on new units! We offer financing and competitive prices! Energy efficient units and budget friendly options available! Whatever your needs we are here to help you, and get you back up and running!



DUCTLESS MINI SPLITS

We offer ductless mini splits as an alternative option, if you are trying to keep your man/woman cave cool, garage cool, Arizona room cool, mini splits are a perfect option.

ASK US ABOUT THEM TODAY!

NEIGHBORS

RELIEF



This pallet of ReVive, a fentanyl overdose combatant product, was delivered July 24 by a Chandler- and Phoenix-based coalition to the Central Navajo Veterans Agency for distribution to first responders. (Courtesy of Bob Dalpe)

Navajo communities get fentanyl relief supplies

Chandler and Phoenix-based coalition set up donation, delivery

By Bob Dalpe
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For the past eight months, a group from the Veterans Medical Leadership Council's Navajo Nation Veterans project have worked with Navajo Veteran Leaders Pete Tsinnijinnie and Cecelia Sandoval to coordinate needed help with the fentanyl crisis.

On July 24, the coalition sent a pallet filled with 1,000 doses of ReVive — a Naloxone product to counter the effects of overdoses — to the Central Navajo Veterans Agency, to be distributed to police and other first responders of the Navajo

• See **Relief** on page 28

Chandler-area group donates robotic pets for V.A. dementia patients

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Who wouldn't like to have a soft furry animal that didn't need to be walked, fed, or cleaned up after?

That's what Jewish War Veterans Copper State 619 members had in mind when they started raising funds biannually in its poppy campaigns at Fry's grocery stores.

That fundraising has helped JWV 619, based in Sun Lakes, near Chandler, be able to provide about \$3,500 worth of robotic pets for Phoenix V.A. Medical Center dementia patients, according to a news release.

A yearly budget has been set aside to purchase robotic pets, which are specifically designed for use by Recreation Therapists in the hospital when working with dementia patients.

• See **Pets** on page 28



Jewish War Veterans Copper State 619 raised funds in its poppy campaigns at Fry's grocery stores to purchase nearly two dozen robotic pets for Phoenix V.A. Medical Center dementia patients. (Courtesy of Jewish War Vets 619)

SAFETY

Child Crisis Arizona: 7 pool fences to Southeast Valley families

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Drowning remains the leading cause of death of children ages 1 to 4 remains among the top five causes of death for children ages 5 to 9, according to a news release.

That's why Child Crisis Arizona has partnered with SRP, State Farm, the Independent Pool & Spa Service Association, Inc., and local firefighter charities to pioneer the Pool Fence Safety Program, the release states.

• See **Pools** on page 29



Erica Culley holds her son, Tilian, as she and family and representatives of Child Crisis Arizona stand in front of the Chandler family's new pool fence. Child Crisis Arizona, in partnership with sponsors of its Pool Fence Safety Program, provided a fence to Culley, another Chandler family and five others in the Southeast Valley this year. (Courtesy of HMA Public Relations)

Crime

• From page 22

all. Burglary dropped by 7.6% and larceny declined 4.4%, though motor vehicle theft actually went up by 12.6%.

CHANDLER AND U.S. CRIME STATISTICS**Chandler property crime cases cleared**

2023

Overall: 4,131

Burglary: 390

Larceny: 3,378

Motor vehicle thefts: 363

2024

Overall: 4,248

Burglary: 342

Larceny: 3,651

Motor vehicle thefts: 255

Chandler property crime changes, Jan. 2024 to Jan. 2025:

Overall: +3%

Burglary: -12%

Larceny: +8%

Motor vehicle thefts: -30%

U.S. property crime rate changes, Jan. 2023 to Jan. 2024:

Overall: -2.4%.

Burglary: -7.6%

Larceny: -4.4%

Motor vehicle thefts: +12.6%

Chandler violent crime cases cleared

2023

Overall violent crimes: 505

Murders: 8

Sexual assaults: 110

Robberies: 80

Aggravated assaults: 307

2024

Overall violent crimes: 389

Murders: 2

Sexual assaults: 51

Robberies: 67

Aggravated assaults: 269

Year-over-year changes, 2023 to 2024, Chandler:

Overall violent crimes: -23%

Murders: -75%

Sexual assaults: -54%

Robberies: -16%

Aggravated assaults: -12%

Affiliated Physician

MDVIP

Please join me for an informational webinar on August 7th at 6:30pm.

Please RSVP under Events on my website.

Prioritize your health with personalized primary care—right here in Tempe

Care includes advanced tests and screenings, with perks like same- or next-day visits and a dedicated doctor who understands your health needs. Longevity focused, add years to your life and life to your years.

As your personal doctor, I can serve as your partner and health coach—helping you to pursue optimizing key aspects of wellness, including preventive care, fitness, nutrition, sleep, stress management and healthier aging. My practice focuses on midlife and older adults, especially those interested in longevity medicine, functional health and personalized primary care.

**Jason Heavens, MD**

📞 623.444.2734

🌐 mdvip.com/JasonHeavensMD



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 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



VICTORY PAINTING & HANDYMAN SERVICES

RELIABLE QUALITY - SINCE 1993!

VIC NEWMAN

Licensed • Bonded • Insured • AZ ROC#: 358760

VictoryPaintingAZ.com

480-931-6669



BUSINESS

Layoffs

• From page 6

partment of Economic Security on July 7, announcing as many as 172 of its west Chandler employees could be let go soon, then revised that total to 696 a few days later.

In his quarterly address, dated July 24, Tan said the semiconductor maker has completed “a significant amount of our workforce reductions” in the second quarter, which he said helped streamline the number of management layers by about 50% in the process.

He didn’t mention site-specific reductions or layoffs in his letter.

Tan said Intel is implementing a plan to reduce its headcount by about 15%, and plans to end the year with a global workforce of about 75,000 employees through workforce reductions and attrition.

Intel not only has an infrastructure

agreement with the city of Chandler, mainly for its Ocotillo campus on the south side, it’s investing billions of dollars in expanding and building two new fabrication facilities. No word has been made lately about when those two fabs will be online and officially open; Chandler economic development director Micah Miranda said he hasn’t heard or seen any variation from a planned fourth-quarter opening of those two fabs.

Tan stated the tech giant is on track to implement its return-to-the-office policy in September.

“Sites are completing necessary improvements to operate at full capacity,” Tan wrote. “There are no more blank checks. Every investment must make economic sense.”

Tan stated the company might have grown too fast in the years leading up to his term as CEO, though he was on the board of directors from 2022 until August of last year.

Tan did mention the Intel fabs in the context of ramping up production, though it isn’t clear what that means in terms of workforce numbers.

“Job No. 1 is ramping Intel 18A (Ocotillo) at scale,” Tan wrote. “Intel 18A and Intel 18A-P are critical nodes for Intel products and will drive meaningful wafer volumes well into the next decade.”

He wrote the company has decided to halt previously planned projects in Germany and Poland. Intel will consolidate its assembly and test operations in Costa Rica to its larger sites in Vietnam and Malaysia and is slowing construction in Ohio “to ensure our spending is aligned with demand.”

“We will follow a systematic approach to growing our factory footprint that’s fully aligned with the needs of our customers,” Tan wrote. “We will be judicious and disciplined

as we allocate capital ... We will take a fundamentally different approach to building our foundry business. Over the past several years, the company invested too much, too soon – without adequate demand. In the process, our factory footprint became needlessly fragmented and underutilized. We must correct our course.”

Tan also had a message that seemed directed at Chandler and other residents who have or are about to lose their jobs with Intel.

“These actions are critical to strengthening our competitive position going forward, but it means we are saying goodbye to valued colleagues,” Tan wrote. “To everyone who will be leaving Intel: Thank you, sincerely, for your contributions.”

Read Tan’s entire letter here: [tinnyurl.com/2yydnf5j](https://nyurl.com/2yydnf5j)

<https://newsroom.intel.com/corporate/lip-bu-tan-steps-in-the-right-direction>

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

THE PEGGY PAYNE ACADEMY
Gifted Academy @ MHS

19

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

37

International Baccalaureate Courses @ THS

ACADEMICS ACTIVITIES ATHLETICS

Tempe★Union★Online

Find Your Opportunity Today!

6

Comprehensive High Schools

Class of 2024

\$64 M in Scholarship Awards

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

REACH RELIABLE TALENT

HIRING SUCCESS!

Hiring today can feel like a revolving door—especially with many job seekers prioritizing short-term perks over long-term commitment. If you’re looking for employees who value consistency, reliability, and community, our readers are exactly who you want to reach.

Advertising in our trusted publications puts your employment opportunities in front of motivated individuals who are looking to build lasting careers—not just chase the next offer.

Promote your employment opportunities where they’ll make an impact—right here in your local newspaper.

Email: Azads@iniusa.org

CHANDLER INDEPENDENT

EDUCATION

Language

• From page 16

es likely to have the greatest needs, though the start of school in July often brings surprises in terms of site demographics.

“We understand there are relationships built, and a campus that’s built a sense of community that’s successful, wants to keep a team together,” Fletcher said. “We also have to look at (English) proficiency levels, especially by the end of a student’s third year in ELD, and we look at movement each year.”

One element that’s not surprising is how Jacobsen, a school located in south Chandler near Intel and other tech company facilities, has among the most international composition of any CUSD elementary school in terms of number of home languages.

District-wide, CUSD students speak about 63 unique home languages, reports state.

One parent, who praised the way Jacobsen’s reputation for its strong ELD program extended beyond U.S. borders, pointed out the enrollment of “very pre-emergent” (beginner) English speakers at Jacobsen tends to

grow as the school year rolls along.

Fletcher said the 18 certified teachers can be reassigned to different campuses during the year, as they’re contracted with the district, rather than a site.

She said all such moves — both prior to and during a school year — aren’t made in a vacuum, or by one administrator.

“Each of these decisions goes through multiple iterations of leadership,” Fletcher said.

Assistant Superintendent Mike De La Torre said the district looks at natural attrition through resignations and retirements when recalibrating ELD staffing needs, but flexibility is important. One site has 200 students with ELD needs this year.

Fletcher said while it’s understandable for students and families to want to stick with innovative teachers and other educators with whom they’ve seen success, administration must trust entire evolving teams to be both creative and effective.

She said one of the reasons Jacobsen has earned an international reputation for ELD success is that Johnson is a talent surrounded by other talent.

“We’ve seen multiple teachers be successful at multiple sites,” she said.

Education

• From page 16

were evaluated by more than 1,200 judges and technical committee members.

Cohen T. Crowder, from Gilbert and a student at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, was awarded the college bronze medal in “Facilities-Leadership” in facility management.

CGCC’s Team A (Jasmine M. Saunders, Sienna Chiquete, Gabrielle Makdesi) was awarded the college silver medal in American Spirit.



Several Chandler-area students earned national recognition at the 2025 SkillsUSA Championships, held in late June in Atlanta. (Courtesy of SkillsUSA)

Basha High School’s Team N (Charles Murphy, Gavin Wilson, Jayden Riecken, Timothy Seale), won the high school gold medal in video news production.

Have your child study the world’s best musicianship training!

Join us for a **FREE TRIAL CLASS!**

EAST VALLEY | NORTH PHOENIX
YAMAHA
MUSIC SCHOOL
 Where kids love playing music.

EVYAMAHAMUSIC.COM/FREE-LESSON

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.

Protect Your Family's Future In Under an Hour



Our locally-owned firm
helps you:

- Create/update your Will
- Set up a Trust
- Plan for Medicaid
- Secure Powers of Attorney
- And more...

Don't wait.
Get peace of mind TODAY.

Call for your free consultation.

480-470-7000

1095 W. Queen Creek Rd. Suite 4 | Chandler, AZ 85248

walkinwills.com/chandler

Disclaimer: Time may vary based on client needs.
Services help in safeguarding wishes but do not guarantee outcomes.

Pre-orders Available for Your 2026 Arizona Scenic Wall Calendars!

To order your calendar just fill out the coupon or call us
at 623-972-6101 to place your order.

\$5 ea. or Two for \$8 or Five for \$15!

PLEASE ADD POSTAGE PRICES to your payment for mailed calendars

One Calendar...\$3 • Two...\$5 • Three...\$7 • Four...\$12 • Five...\$15



Independent Newsmedia's 2026 AZ Scenic Calendar Order Form

Name _____

Email or Ph.# _____

*Address _____

Number of Calendars _____

*Only if we are mailing your calendars

☐ Please mail my calendars ☐ I'll pick mine up ☐ Yes, I have included my payment (including postage)

Return coupon and payment to: Independent Newsmedia • 17220 N. Boswell Blvd., Ste. 230, Sun City, AZ 85373

NEIGHBORS

Pets

• From page 24

They are designed to look and act like animals that are commonly kept as pets, the release states. JWV recently presented the hospital staff with six Joy for All robotic dogs, five Joy for All cats, 10 "Squawker Walker" birds that attach to walkers and sing to encourage walking, two Perfect Petzzz and three pet carriers.

The group will continue to supply additional pets throughout the year, as veterans are allowed to keep their "pets" after discharge.

The Caring for Older Adults and Caregivers at Home VA program, or COACH, comprised of nursing staff and social workers who keep veterans at home as long as possible, also uses robotic pets when visiting vets with dementia.

They encourage their caregivers — often spouses — to use the pets as a distraction when they need to leave veterans by themselves for a while.

A pet can provide a variety of health benefits, including reduced blood pressure, cholesterol, and loneliness as well as boosting exercise and socialization opportunities, the release states. Studies show that a robot pet can also have the same health benefits.

Researchers at Auckland University, New Zealand, found a robot companion could offer benefit to older adults like living animals, especially in improving the mental well-being and living standards, the release states.

According to studies by the VA which began using robotic pets during the COVID-19 pandemic, in North Carolina, robotic pets at the Salisbury VA Community Living Center "have brought comfort, connection and therapeutic benefits to veterans with memory loss, dementia and depression," the VA reported in 2022. "Patients tend to calm down when they have someone or something to nurture."

JWV poppy volunteers are needed only twice a year for a three-hour period to sit in front of an East Valley Fry's grocery and accept contributions that allow Post 619 to provide donations like these.

Post 619, which meets the third Sunday of every month from September to June, boasts members who represent a wide range of religious affiliations and participates in philanthropic activities to help veterans of all faiths.

To learn more about JWV activities and membership, contact Arthur Uram at 702-884-4175 or uramarthur@gmail.com.

Relief

• From page 24

Nation, according to a news release.

Connecting through Eddie Tantoco and an anonymous donor, the release states, ReVive will be used across the Northern Arizona veteran and civilian communities.

This is the first delivery of an expected 1,000-dose-per-month donation to be delivered to help various Native rural populations who are experiencing some of the worst effects of

the fentanyl crisis, the release states.

The next three months' donations are scheduled for destinations in Arizona and New Mexico.

The release gives special credit to Tantoco for making the project happen through the initial connections he made before passing away in June.

Through the newly formed Native American Indian Veterans National VSO, the Leadership Council will work with other Native American communities who are experiencing fentanyl abuse challenges.

NEIGHBORS

Pools

• From page 24

This year, two Chandler families are among the beneficiaries.

Now in its fourth year, the program has a mission of equipping families with vital protection, free of charge.

While no single measure can single-handedly avert such tragedies, the release states, the program strives to create multiple layers of defense, surrounding children with safety.

This year, Child Crisis Arizona announced the program award of seven pool fences to families across Chandler, San Tan Valley, Apache Junction, and Mesa.

In the span of two weeks, these fences are finding their place in these families' yards. These households include families where the grandparents serve as primary caregivers, single-parent households and house-

holds where children are in the adoption process.

One such parent getting a pool fence is Erica Culley of Chandler, who recently had a water incident at her home.

"Our 2-year-old son, Tilian, has a unique obsession with water," Culley said in the release. "He is currently undergoing tests for autism but has zero fear of water — so much so, in fact, he keeps jumping into water at several family members' homes. Thankfully, people have always been around. But the fear is there."

While Culley and her family watch Tilian diligently at home, they fear with a busy home — a dog that needs to be let out, and more — that he may get out and hurt.

"We shopped around for the past two years for a pool fence, and the prices have been a major challenge," Culley said. "We are ecstatic to be

getting a fence from SRP and Child Crisis Arizona to keep Tilian safe."

Anita Alfaro and her family are the other Child Crisis fence recipients in Chandler this year.

According to Child Crisis Arizona's Pool Fence Safety Program for all caregivers, here are critical ways to keep kids safe around the pool this summer:

- ♦ A pool fence should surround all sides of the pool and be at least 5 feet tall with self-closing and self-latching gates.

- ♦ Make sure that all furniture is on the inside of the pool fence so that children cannot use it to climb over the fence.

- ♦ Ensure that the pool gate is always properly latched and closed and that it is not broken.

- ♦ Children should not be able to go under, over, or around the pool fence.

- ♦ Never allow a child to sit on or

next to a drain. Teach your child not to swim or play near the drain.

- ♦ Swim with a partner. Keep young children and weak swimmers within arm's reach of an adult. Make sure older children swim with a partner every time.

- ♦ Children can be small enough to fit through a "doggie door" when parents are not aware. Lock doggie doors so that it creates a barrier between the child and water.

In addition to hosting the Pool Fence Safety program, Child Crisis Arizona is also home to Safe Kids Maricopa County, a local chapter of a worldwide organization aiming to prevent childhood injury and death.

Through this program, Child Crisis Arizona offers dozens of no-cost, online, and in-person safety courses, including its virtual Water Safety Workshop available online at childcrisisaz.org.

Ride along with Neighborhood Preservation Officers

Ever wondered what it takes to keep Chandler's neighborhoods looking their best? Join our Code Enforcement Team for a neighborhood ride-along!

This new program gives you a first-hand look at the important work our Neighborhood Preservation Officers do to keep communities safe, clean and beautiful.

Gain insight into their daily responsibilities, discover the challenges and rewards of the job, and learn tips for maintaining your own property. Sign up today: chandleraz.gov/NeighborhoodRideAlongs.



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



AUTOMOTIVE, GARAGE SALES & MERCHANDISE RATES

\$20 per market - 30 words
 Your ad appears in the newspaper
 of choice plus online

\$5⁰⁰ 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

\$5⁰⁰ 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
 \$15⁰⁰ 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
 \$15⁰⁰ 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"

Announcement

NOTICE
 Independent Newspapers will not knowingly accept any advertisement that is illegal or considered fraudulent. In all cases of questionable value, such as promises of guaranteed income from work-at-home programs - if it sounds too good to be true, chances are that it is. If you have questions or doubts about any ad on these pages, we advise that before responding or sending money ahead of time, you check with the Better Business Bureau at 877-291-6222 for previous complaints.



AC/Heating

SERVICE 1ST
 HOME MAINTENANCE
HVAC

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Free Estimates on NEW Units
- \$89 Service Fee (waived with repair)
- Senior Discounts on Repairs
- We Offer Financing

\$39.95 Winter/Summer Checkup
 with coupon

CALL TODAY!
602-898-Home (4663)
 Licensed / Bonded / Insured / ROC 354145
www.service1sthvac.com

See more Classified Ads from around the Valley - Online at iniusa.org/classifieds

Electrical

ELECTRIC-ALL-N-1 LLC

TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

- NEW RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION-METAL BLDG & TI
- EXCAVATION UNDERGROUND UTILITIES & NEW POWER POLE SETS
- RENOVATIONS ELECTRICAL PANELS - UPGRADES
- SERVICE CALLS ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE CALLS INCLUDING POOLS

COMMERCIAL LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED
 CB-11 ROC # 357740

480-714-1592 **ED GIBSON**
 LOCAL CONTRACTOR

Glass Repair

GilbertGlass Corporation

Call us today! **(480)892-1556**

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Glass Repair & Replacement
 Window Replacement • Shower Doors

Glass Repair

BE SEEN!

In the Classifieds!
623-972-6101
iniusa.org/classifieds

Gutters

RAIN GUTTER EXPRESS

Quality Products & Service

- Seamless 5" & 6" Gutter Installation
- Custom Fabrication
- Cleaning, Restoring & Repair

FREE ESTIMATES!
www.RainGutterExpress.com
602-300-7472
 LICENSED BONDED • INSURED
 ROC#347844

Miscellaneous

BLUE MOON
 ESTATE SALES

SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

BlueMoonEstateSales.com/Mesa
480-932-9439

Roofing

FIRST RESPONSE ROOFING

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

480.924.4444
FirstResponseRoofingAZ.com
 FINANCING AVAILABLE | MILITARY DISCOUNTS
 ROC 337526

THIS WAY TO THE BEST LOCAL DEALS

Buy or Sell in the Classifieds
 All Types of Classified Ads

In Print & Online

- merchandise • services
- jobs • homes • vehicles • & more

Call or Go Online to Place an Ad:
623.972.6101
iniusa.org/classifieds

INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA
 Celebrating & Connecting Our Communities

Roofing

ANGLER ROOFING

DEDICATED TO QUALITY AND SERVICE

No job too big or small
Senior discounts available
ROC # 305771
Licensed Bonded Insured

480-518-3246

FREE ESTIMATES

Roofing

SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE

Search our classifieds for all your business & professional service needs! Tell our advertisers you saw their ad in the

INDEPENDENT!

iniusa.org/classifieds

Roofing

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 • Water Proofing • Roof Tiles • Roof Shingles

John York - Owner/Operator

602-705-5209

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
ROC #188602 #327991, #327992, #327993

Senior & Military Discounts

FREE ESTIMATES

Advertise in our Business and Service directory and connect with thousands of potential customers!

Call **623-972-6101** for details today.
iniusa.org/classifieds

Our **MOST IN-DEMAND** package is back!



Get the **PHOENIX INDEPENDENT BUNDLE**
2-DAYS PRINT AND FULL ACCESS TO YOURVALLEY.NET

\$30/mo for 3 months

*New subscribers only

CALL TODAY 888-665-3848



Save the Dates
SENIOR EXPO THE PREMIER SENIOR HEALTH & LIFESTYLE EXPOS
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



Surprise • August 20, 2025 • The Colonnade
Sun City • September 24, 2025 • Sundial Recreation Center
Sun City West • October 22, 2025 • SCW Foundation
Apache Junction • January 7, 2026 • Central Arizona College
Chandler • February 24, 2026 • Sun Lakes Country Club
Peoria • March 26, 2026 • Westbrook Village

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

NEED FLOORING OR SHOWERS?

SHOWERS • COUNTERTOPS • BACK SPLASHES

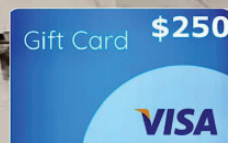
VINYL PLANK • TILE • LAMINATE • WOOD

WE WILL BRING MAJOR MANUFACTURERS SAMPLES TO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS OR WE WILL PROVIDE
"INSTALLATION ONLY" ESTIMATES IF YOU PURCHASE YOUR OWN FLOORING MATERIALS!

FINANCING AND DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE,

CALL TODAY!

REFER A NEIGHBOR, FRIEND, RELATIVE, ETC.
& RECEIVE A HAND DELIVERED \$250 VISA
GIFT CARD* FROM ZONA FLOORS!!!



*PROJECTS OVER \$2500...ALL
OTHERS GET 10% OF TOTAL

FLOORING. SHOWERS. BATH REMODELS. COUNTER TOPS

HONEST UP-FRONT PRICING – CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

ZONAFLOORS.COM

RESEARCH OUR
REVIEWS

480.939.0208

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED • ROC #336899 & 349964

