



COMMUNITY

CUSD youth, staff
loud at summit; **4**



CHANDLER INDEPENDENT



EDUCATION

Tech district cuts
discussed; **14**

September 2025

Volume 4 Issue 2

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Chadwick Burton of Chandler tries out one of the warm-out courts at the newly opened pickle ball complex at Tumbleweed, one of the city's 70 parks. A newly contracted Salt River Project assessment will examine Chandler's park irrigation systems for leaks and other inefficiencies. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)



WATER LOGGED

Chandler partners with utility for assessments
of park water use

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Eventually, states and nations will probably need to find more water on the supply side — completely new ways to get fresh water to desert places like Arizona.

In the meantime, cities like Chandler and other end-users of large quantities of water must keep their focus on

conservation, including water used on grass, landscaping and other needs at city parks.

The Chandler City Council has approved an agreement with Salt River Project that will hopefully assess all 70 of Chandler's parks for water use efficiency. Chandler maintains nearly 1,200 acres

• See **Water** on page 11

30TH ANNIVERSARY

Gymnastics coach on ALS: 'I live with it'

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Rob Survick was finally diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, he was still able to move around, make videos on his own and was a staunch supporter of more federal funding for ALS research and treatment.

He still believes in all those causes, and still wants government to do right by patients who have the rare motor neuron disease. But the progressive nature of his illness mean these days, he needs a lot of physical help as part of his daily routine.

"This is what's keeping me alive," Sur-

vick says, gesturing across the Aspire gymnastics training center in west Chandler. "My focus now is just to try and have a good day, contribute and fight for what I can." Survick grew up in the Valley and attended Arizona State University in the late '90s and early 2000s, competing with Sun Devil Gymnastics, the club that evolved after ASU dropped men's gymnastics as an NCAA sport in the early '90s. Fully self-sustaining now, Sun Devil Gymnastics won three national team collegiate titles, the most recent one this year. In fact, the

• See **Coach** on page 20



Gymnastics coach Rob Survick advises a young gymnast during an afternoon workout. Aspire owner Scott Barclay said Survick is one of the main people who kept the gym and its athletes connected to high levels of competition as the gym reaches its 30th birthday with a daylong Saturday, Sept. 13 celebration. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

RENOVATE
YOUR GATE

**YOUR GATE NEED
AN UPDATE?**

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

PAGE 7

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COMMUNITY NEWS

IN BRIEF



Chandler Vice Mayor Christine Ellis, left, and City Council members Jennifer Hawkins and O.D. Harris view the technology in the Institute for Digital Inclusion Acceleration GFiber Mobile Hive van on Aug. 11. The van and a "Hive" at San Marcos Elementary School are part of an initiative to bring greater digital literacy to underserved communities. (Courtesy of Evolve)

GFiber announces new city-corporate 'digital literacy' partnership with Chandler

Two people spoke enthusiastically about a city-corporate partnership to the Chandler City Council at its Aug. 11 regular meeting.

Will Novak of GFiber, or Google Fiber, and Dr. Erin Carr-Jordan of the Institute for Digital Inclusion Acceleration spoke briefly to council about the IDIA's "hive" located at San Marcos Elementary School, located near downtown Chandler, as well as IDIA's Mobile Hive. Resembling a high-tech bookmobile or science lab, the technology hub is a van "designed to deliver digital access and literacy across the state."

IDIA has reached 22,069 with the Mobile Hive and pop-up Hives in underserved areas, the release states, and as of Aug. 11, IDIA's Chandler Hive has served more than 3,122 people.

Chandler PD, Secret Service find no credit card skimming

In a proactive effort to keep residents and businesses safe from credit

• See **Community** on page 9

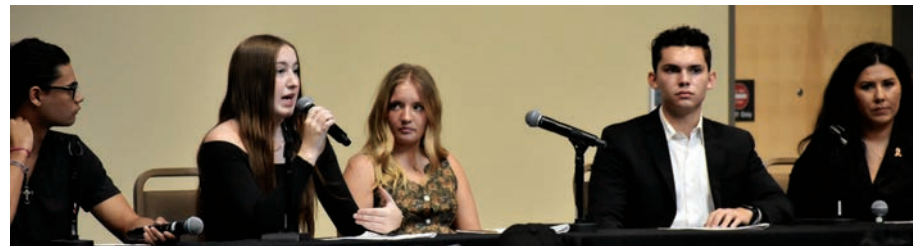
Strong Chandler presence at teen mental health summit

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

MESA — Adults can miss signs of a teen struggling, Brendan Salisbury said.

"When you have somebody who's consistently not as interested in activities, not talking as much, maybe not eating as much, this is the time when you need to ask yourself 'How can I have a direct and honest conversation with my child?,'" Salisbury said.

The panelist was answering a question Aug. 29 about what adults often miss during "Stronger Together: Safe Minds, Safe Communities." The half-day teen mental health awareness and violence prevention summit was hosted by Maricopa County Supervisor and former Chandler City Council member Mark Stewart and organized by some of the people and organizations trying to shed light on these public safety topics.



Riana Alexander speaks as part of a youth panel as Tristan Kuehner, left, Lucy Wegener, center, Brendan Salisbury and panel leader Bridget Vega listen Aug. 29 at the Stronger Together teen mental health awareness and violence prevention summit in Mesa. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

Brought to the forefront by the fall 2023 murder of Preston Lord, whose father and stepmother attended the event, more forums, vigils, community meetings on teen safety topics have taken place in the East Valley.

A handful of individual speakers made "Ted Talk" like presentations, followed by three lively panel discussions, which took audience questions.

Salisbury and the rest of a student-led panel drew some of the most vocal reactions from those

who were in the ASU Tech Student Union room. Riana Alexander, Tristan Kuehner and Lucy Wegener all gave responses to questions drawn on their own recent experiences as teens from moderator and activist Bridget Vega.

Wegener said she doesn't believe parents and other adults who either shut down or change the subject when teen needs come up are being malicious.

• See **Stronger Together** on page 9

PROJECT

Contract: \$350K to keep pigeons off city buildings

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA



Mike Hollingsworth, Chandler's facilities and fleet manager, talks to the City Council on Aug. 11 about a \$350,000 contract to keep pigeons off of about nine downtown city buildings. (Courtesy of city of Chandler)

When the city department manager stepped to the podium Aug. 11 to talk about a project priced at \$350,000, the Chandler mayor and one council member smiled.

Mayor Kevin Hartke asked if "The Pigeon Guy" was actually in the room to talk about a contract to keep bird feces off of some downtown city buildings.

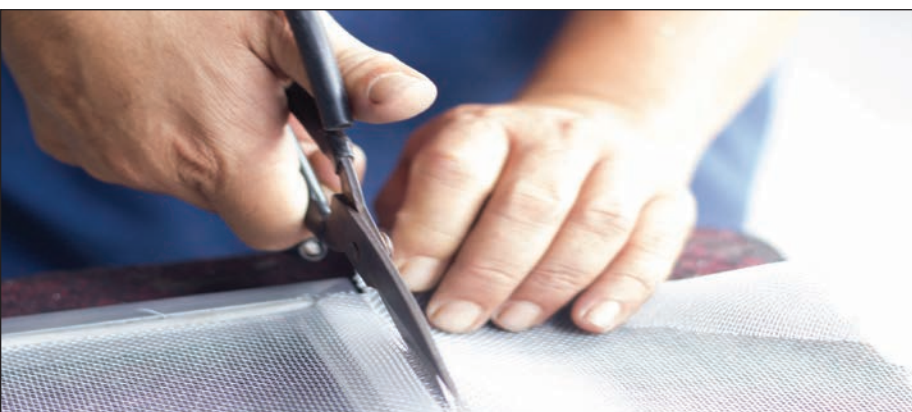
"I think you (Council member Angel Encinas) called this in, just to

see what a guy with that moniker looks like," Hartke joked.

It's easy to see why it might be tough to be serious about bird droppings. It's also easy to see why Encinas and one other council member were more serious about the price tag.

Mike Hollingsworth, the city of Chandler's facilities and fleet manager, said he could have worn an Arizona Cardinals suit, but then got to the

• See **Pigeons** on page 12



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BUSINESS

IN BRIEF



The city of Chandler has announced Simpson Strong-Tie, a supplier of structural building products, is expanding its Chandler operations for the third time, recently signing a 67,000-square-foot lease at 2850 S. Cooper Road in Chandler Airport Business Park. (Courtesy of city of Chandler)

Chandler structural building supplier expands again

The city of Chandler has announced Simpson Strong-Tie, a supplier of structural building products, is expanding its Chandler operations for the third time, recently signing a 67,000-square-foot lease at 2850 S. Cooper Road in Chandler Airport Business Park.

The soon-to-be 67,000 square-foot facility will include a training center, small manufacturing department, and warehousing, according to a news release.

Simpson plans to occupy the new Chandler “3.0” location later this fall and be fully operational by the start of 2026. The company currently employs 12 people at its Chandler site, expects to hire for a few new positions soon, and sees potential to double its headcount in the coming years.

Event celebrated National Black Business Month

Entrepreneurs, small business owners, and community leaders came together in early August at the Chandler Center for the Arts for a celebration kicking off National

• See **Business** on page 24

Chandler Intel announces 97 more layoffs

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

On the heels of several high-profile developments over the past few months, Chandler’s largest employer is going to lose even more jobs.

Intel filed a notice of reduction with Arizona Workforce Connections on Aug. 25, saying as many as 97 workers in Chandler will lose their jobs.

The move isn’t a complete surprise. Even after Intel filed a notice 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, CEO Lip-Bu Tan said July 24 that the semiconductor maker has completed “a significant amount of our workforce reductions” in the second quarter.

Tan said Intel is implementing a plan to reduce its headcount by about 15%, and plans to end the year with

Workers make progress in 2023 on one of Intel’s new facilities in south Chandler. The Intel Corp. reported Aug. 25 it will add 97 more layoffs to what had been previously announced. (Intel Corp.)



a global workforce of about 75,000 employees through workforce reductions and attrition.

On Aug. 7, the Associated Press reported President Trump posted online that he wanted Tan to resign,

fewer than five months after the tech giant hired him. The demand was triggered by reports raising national security concerns about Tan’s past investments in Chinese tech compa-

• See **Layoffs** on page 12

EXPANSION

Semiconductor support firm to expand facility

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Applied Materials, Inc. has announced its expansion plans include its Chandler facility — though it isn’t clear yet, exactly to what extent.

The semiconductor industry support manufacturer announced Aug. 6 that it’s “working with Apple and Texas Instruments to bolster the semiconductor manufacturing supply chain in the U.S.”

Applied is supporting Apple’s partnership with TI, announcing that in addition to creating chipmaking equipment at its Austin, Texas facilities, it plans to invest more than

\$200 million “in Arizona to establish a state-of-the-art facility for manufacturing critical components for semiconductor equipment.”

In a news release, Applied states its Austin major production facilities in Austin are accompanied by similar ones in Massachusetts, Montana, and “a new site under development in Arizona.”

The company said it plans to invest more than \$200 million to create a new advanced manufacturing facility in Chandler to produce semiconductor equipment components and parts. The facility could support the

• See **Expansion** on page 24



Applied Materials, Inc., which has facilities like the one shown above in Austin, Texas, says it plans major investment and expansion that it says could add as many as 200 jobs over the next five years at a Chandler facility that will help make semiconductor-industry equipment. (Courtesy of Applied Materials)

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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Jason Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

OPENINGS

1 Milkshake Factory's first Arizona location held an Aug. 2 grand opening and is now open at 4955 S. Alma School Rd., Suite 4955-13, in a Hornacek's Golf shopping center. The dessert cafe's signature items are handspun milkshakes and small-batch, premium chocolates. The brand currently has a second store under construction at SanTan Village in Gilbert, with more Valley. There's an assortment of milkshake flavors, including chocolate-dipped strawberry and Campfire S'mores, alongside handcrafted sundaes, molten chocolate cups, and chocolate treats. The Chandler Ocotillo store will be open daily from noon to 10 p.m. Visit milkshakefactory.com to learn more.

2 The jeweler chain **Gorjana** has opened its first storefront in Chandler on the first floor of the Fashion Center. The 111th opening in gorjana's nationwide expansion is happening on the heels of its 100th store being open recently in Scottsdale. The Chandler store will feature gorjana's signature jewelry collections that try to blend timeless elegance with modern trends. The location within the

Chandler Fashion Center on the first floor, between Scheels and the Round1 arcade, across from Lululemon and the Apple store. The hours are Mondays through Saturdays, 10 am to 9 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit gorjana.com to learn more.

3 Floor & Decor held a ribbon-cutting in late August for its new showroom facility at 1901 E. Northrop Blvd, in the Chandler Airpark area, across from Andretti Karting. The chain of shops offers tile, stone, wood, laminate and vinyl flooring, along with decoratives, fixtures and installation materials. The hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. Call 480-444-3959 or visit flooranddecor.com to learn more.

AWARD

4 Quiches & Pies, having only opened last November, has already captured a regional award. The Chandler bakery is listed among nine recently named "Best Places for Pie in the West" in a recent edition of AAA's travel magazine, Via. The pie shop, opened by Cuisine & Wine Bistro owners Máiréad



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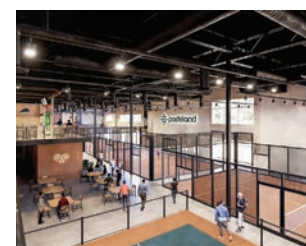
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INNOVATION PARK



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PADELAND

and Fabrice Buschtetz in north Chandler, was praised for taste and for using locally sourced ingredients like goat cheese and roasted tomatoes, poached pears and almond cream. Quiche & Pies is located on the southeast corner of Alma School and Ray roads. Learn more at quichesandpies.com.

COMING SOON

5 Chandler Innovation Park's groundbreaking included Mayor Kevin Hartke and was held Aug. 27 on the 21-acre site at the northeast corner of Arizona Avenue and Ryan Road, in the Chandler Airpark area. It's a three-building industrial park that will offer about 327,776 square feet of premier industrial space. It's designed to accommodate a wide range of industrial users; the park's three Class A buildings will range from 39,000 to 190,000 square feet, with flexible layouts for tenants from 20,000 square feet to full-building users. The buildings will feature 28-foot to 32-foot clear heights, multiple grade-level and dock-high doors and fully fenced and secured truck courts to meet the demands of manufacturing, logistics, and light industrial tenants.

6 Padeland is planning to be the new

tenant of the space formerly occupied by LOOK Cinema theater and bar in downtown Chandler. Opening is still planned for "late 2025." Padeland is a chain of indoor destination fusing padel — a sport that grew out of Mexico in the 1960s — along with pickleball, wellness and hospitality. The 35,000-plus-square-foot facility has four padel courts, five pickleball courts, a full-scale craft brewery and taproom, restaurant, coffee shop, co-working space and other hospitality features planned. Other locations are planned in the Valley besides the downtown one at 1 W. Chandler Blvd. Learn more at padelandaz.com.

CLOSED

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 location leaves only 17 on its abuelos.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Stronger Together

• From page 4

"I don't think those reactions come from a place of wanting to inflict harm," Wegener said. "I think it comes from a place of fear."

Wegener also praised the Chandler Unified School District — the largest public school district in the Southeast Valley — for making some strides on teen well-being, such as opening the Hope Institute suicide prevention crisis center on the Perry High School campus in Gilbert.

Another panel included Natasha Davis, director of counseling and social services for the Chandler Unified School District and longtime school resource officer Steve Dieu, as well as a local psychologist and other professionals whose work includes teen well-being.

Davis was among those who pointed out that not only must schools, law enforcement and other organizations collaborate and share information, they must promote availability of the tools they have. She mentioned CUSD's use of the STOPit reporting



Therapist Myra Hurtado speaks as part of a panel that also included Chandler Unified Schools director of counseling, Natasha Davis, left, and podcaster and motivational speaker Shane Watson, right, Aug. 29 at the "Stronger Together" teen mental health awareness and violence prevention summit in Mesa. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

app as an example.

The free event also included a panel, hosted by Stewart himself, that included state Sen. Carine Werner and Rep. Matt Gress — sponsors of various public safety measures in the Arizona Legislature — alongside Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell.

Mitchell said one of her challenges, especially with complex cases such as Lord's murder, is that much police and district attorney work must be done in near-complete privacy and secrecy, ranging from interviews to

grand-jury proceedings. This can give the public the false impression that little, if anything, is being done on a case.

"The keys are to do everything in the correct order, and then go public and talk about what has and hasn't happened in order to get accurate information out there," Mitchell said.

The county attorney used the occasion to talk about a particular bill that didn't pass this year that would allow parents or group home managers to confiscate guns if a dangerous situation presents. She'll try again to

get the bill passed in 2026, she said.

"Juvenile violent crimes are on the upswing," Mitchell said. "We get parents calling police saying 'My kid has a gun, I don't want them to have it, things are going to happen.' And a loophole in a (state) law says a kid can have a gun in their own residence or group home without approval of a parent or group home manager. That's ridiculous."

Other presenters included advocate Katey McPherson, who mentioned she advocates for the "away for the day" device policy. She showed cell phone images in what she said was a smaller student being beaten by several larger students in a local school bathroom, illustrating that teens with phones on campus, even in passing periods or during lunch, sets up a formula for chaos.

Arizona Gang Task Force detective Julio Chavez said law enforcement agencies are moving away from the gang-detail approach. He also said one challenge is the number of single mothers who are raising children and attempting to keep them safe on their own.

Community

• From page 4

card skimming operations, Chandler Police detectives recently partnered with the U.S. Secret Service's Phoenix Field Office to conduct a

citywide sweep of more than 100 businesses.

The operation found no skimming devices in Chandler in checks for illegal skimming devices installed at point-of-sale terminals and ATMs

Here are some tips to help residents protect themselves from

becoming victims:

- ♦ Inspect machines before use; Check ATMs, gas pumps, and payment terminals for anything loose, crooked, damaged, or unusual.
- ♦ Use chip-enabled cards. Those are less vulnerable to skimming than traditional magnetic-strip cards.

♦ If a debit transaction is the only option, carefully enter the PIN using a hand to block hidden cameras.

♦ Choose safe locations. Use ATMs in well-lit, indoor areas.

♦ Monitor bank accounts. Be on the lookout for suspicious or fraudulent activity.



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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.

District not in jeopardy of losing EVIT programs

I am writing in response to your (Independent Newsmedia's) Aug. 11 article "Queen Creek Unified sounds alarm about potential cuts to career programs."

Here is some important clarifying information:

In March 2024, the Arizona Auditor General issued a report on East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) that was critical of their performance on administering both the quality of curriculum and the financial oversight of funds provided by the state for CTE programs, including satellite programs at local campuses. EVIT agreed with those findings and sought to upgrade their inter-governmental agreements with member districts.

The revised IGAs were due to be completed by June 30 of this year, but has now have been extended twice, with another deadline quickly approaching on Aug. 15.

There are 11 member districts that make up the EVIT CTED. There is also an ad-hoc "consortium" of nine districts (two are not participating) that seem to be trying to undermine the role of EVIT as the jurisdictional authority over the CTED.

This role is defined in statute ARS-15-343 and administered by the Arizona Board of Education and the local CTED district. Chandler Unified chief financial officer Lana Berry, who is married to Queen Creek Superintendent Perry Berry, also a consortium member district, is playing a significant role in organizing and driving this consortium.



Kurt Rohrs

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.

Four of the 11 EVIT member districts (Mesa Unified (7,215 students), Chandler Unified (5,863), Gilbert Unified (4,591), and Tempe Union (4,394) comprise over 65% of EVIT CTED enrollment.

Four more member districts (Scottsdale Unified, Higley Unified, Queen Creek Unified, American Leadership Academy) have between 1,000-2,000 students each that are participating, bringing the total to 85% of enrollment.

Both Mesa Unified (the largest member) and Scottsdale (fifth-largest) have already broken from the consortium and approved their own individual IGAs.

I am an ardent supporter of career and technical education programs in our district schools. I am also respectful of Arizona statute that defines the jurisdiction of EVIT in administering the CTED and its members as well as the findings of the Auditor General addressing deficiencies in oversight that need to be corrected.

The QCUSD CTE programs are not in any financial jeopardy. Overfunded CTE programs was one of the Auditor General's findings that needed correction.

Statute ARS 15.393 (L) describes the requirements of IGAs with satellite districts and further states that "(9) That the payment for services shall not exceed the cost of the services provided."

In fact, the Queen Creek CTE account is overfunded by nearly \$3 million (typical expenses are about \$500-600K per year) — far in excess of the Auditor General's guidance. QCUSD has routinely been funded more than their expenses since at least 2020, resulting in annual increases in their CTE fund balances.

There appears to be an insinuation that EVIT is threatening satellite CTE programs at member districts and that they are in jeopardy of being shut down. That is highly unlikely to occur and is disingenuous and misleading to suggest otherwise. EVIT has consistently supported satellite programs at local schools and will certainly continue their funding and support.

All this rhetoric appears to be an attempt to develop false narratives to discredit EVIT and avoid EVIT's state mandated oversight responsibilities. Satellite CTE programs must have proper oversight over their quality and financing to ensure compliance with Arizona statute 15-393.

The Arizona Auditor General report clearly identified deficiencies with this compliance that each member district is responsible for as well.

Kurt Rohrs

Chandler Unified School Board member

Editor's note: Rohrs' personal opinions do not represent the views of the Chandler Unified school board as a whole.

FROM THE COVER

Water

• From page 1

of developed parkland across its 70 parks.

Simone Kjolsrud, the city's water resources manager, said SRP will pay to assess a maximum of 15 parks per year, with the city and SRP splitting the cost, 50-50, of any upgrades or repairs the assessments might reveal.

"We can't have any leaks in our irrigation system," she said. "Our water conservation staff has been working hard on this program for more than a year. This is one of the ways we're working to be the most sustainable and water-efficient city in Arizona."

The 15 assessments per year mean when the program ends in the year 2030, hopefully, Chandler will take advantage and have all 70 parks assessed, plus a handful of highly land-

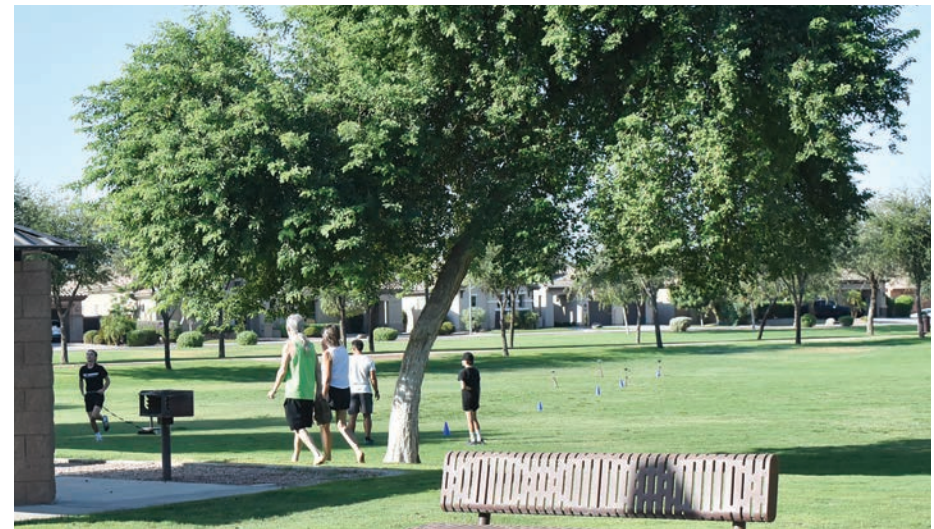
scaped retention basins and medians, Kjolsrud said.

The city's 50% cost-share for irrigation system repairs is identified in the existing Chandler parks capital program for irrigation repairs.

Kjolsrud said professional irrigation consultants will complete customized irrigation audits at each park. She said city staff and Council have "seen all the headlines" about likely reductions and restrictions regarding both Colorado River water and groundwater that are mentioned in various state and federal proposals.

"The benefit is to reduce as much waste as we can," Kjolsrud said. "We really want to set the example for our residents by having our infrastructure as efficient as possible."

Kjolsrud said she sees the SRP contract — one of several ways the city collaborates with the util-

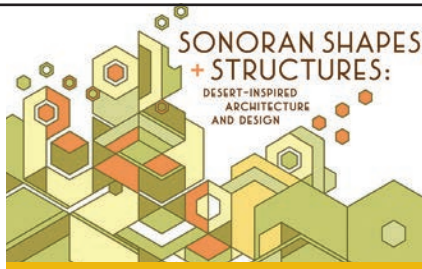


Residents make use of a cooler September morning at Roadrunner Park in east Chandler. A newly contracted Salt River Project assessment will examine Chandler's park irrigation systems for leaks and other inefficiencies. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

ity — as part of a larger effort. "I see this as one small step in a much larger program, as we prepare for reductions in the future," she said.

Email Jason W. Brooks at jbrooks@inusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AZOpinions@inusa.org.

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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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pigeons

• From page 4

reasons why the city should spend so much to keep birds off of concrete and other surfaces downtown.

Council is likely to approve the purchase at its Thursday, Aug. 14 regular meeting.

“We’ve talked with experts about the best way to handle this,” Hollingsworth told the council. “And we’ll come up with some metrics for how to measure effectiveness.”

A staff report states city staff have seen “significant pigeon activity” at multiple downtown facilities over the past few years, including the

Main Library covered parking, main Chandler Police parking garage, City Hall, the City Hall parking garage, the City Hall cooling towers, the courthouse’s covered parking, the Center for the Arts and the recently completed Oregon Street parking structure.

The increased bird presence is contributing to property damage and creating potential health and safety concerns due to droppings and nesting materials, the report states.

The report states city staff wanted to secure a contract for “comprehensive bird abatement services.” The scope of work will include thorough cleaning and sanitization of the affected surfaces, as well as the im-

plementation of targeted abatement measures in locations where pigeons are nesting or perching — particularly in downtown parking structures.

The service chosen for through bidding — “The Pigeon Guy” — will also incorporate regular monitoring and assessment, including visual inspections, acoustic monitoring and damage evaluations, the report states. Seven bids were received.

The one-year contract includes the option of as many as four one-year extensions.

Hollingsworth said some of the buildings, especially the Oregon Street structure, have been inundated by pigeons at about the time those buildings were finished.

Hollingsworth said there have already been lessons learned from the problem, as in designs and proposals of upcoming buildings having pigeon abatement as a major consideration.

He mentioned spikes, though he said netting, while expensive to create and install, is the most effective and generally doesn’t require much ongoing maintenance.

Encinas and council member O.D. Harris both balked slightly at the cost. Acting City Manager John Pombier said while this contract is only for select city buildings, potential action is currently being discussed by a Council subcommittee to address pigeon problems across the city.

BUSINESS

Layoffs

• From page 6

nies while he was a venture capitalist.

But Trump backed off after Tan professed his allegiance to the U.S. in a public letter to Intel employees and went to the White House to meet with the president, who later applauded the Intel CEO for having an “amazing story.”

The Intel Corp. reported second-quarter 2025 financial results that were accompanied by a letter to employees from Tan. He said second-quarter numbers show “a first

step in the right direction.”

He said the downsize will streamline the number of management layers by about 50% in the process, though he didn’t mention site-specific reductions or layoffs in his letter.

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 in expanding and building two new fabrication facilities.

No word has been made at all in 2025 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 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.”

Tan also stated the tech giant is on track to implement its return-to-the-

office policy in September, amid reports the chipmaker has fallen behind other tech giants like Nvidia in developing more A.I. technology more quickly.

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.”



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EDUCATION

IN BRIEF

Chandler student receives \$10K Cox scholarship

Nila Sathyan, a graduate of Desert Vista High School and a Chandler resident will receive one of 10 Cox Communications' \$10,000 scholarships to pursue her higher education.



Nila Sathyan

The Arizona State University-bound student will study biology, a release states.

ACP senior nets \$50K scholarship for health care creation

Brad Wu, a senior at Arizona College Prep High School in Chandler, has been awarded a \$50,000 Davidson



Brad Wu

Fellows Scholarship for his engineering of a lightweight, brain-controlled robotic arm device to help stroke patients regain movement.

ment.

The Davidson Fellows Scholarship is an honor for students 18 and younger. His award is part of the program's 25th anniversary year, which is granting a combined \$825,000 to only 21 students nationwide.

Wu's project combines a brain-computer interface that detects when patients are actively engaging, an adjustable forearm exoskeleton and real-time vibration feedback to guide recovery. Using advanced machine learning, it interprets brain activity to support personalized rehabilitation.

Chandler to tech school district: Don't cut funding

By Jason W. Brooks

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

East Valley school districts that have career and technical education satellite programs of the East Valley Institute of Technology are beginning to make points publicly about changes proposed for next year.

EVIT has proposed cuts it states would only pay for the costs of service, saying some districts are being overpaid for their services by EVIT at satellite sites and rolling that money over year after year.

At nearly the same time, the Chandler Unified School District and other EVIT-contracted districts have made statements clarifying their relationship with EVIT and how they would like to move forward.

Queen Creek, Chandler, Gilbert, Higley, Cave Creek, Apache Junction, Fountain Hills, J.O. Combs and Tempe Union school districts offer more than 100 satellite programs — 15 of which are available exclusively on high school campuses.

"EVIT is proposing a reduction in funding over the course of the next five years, so instead of receiving 87% of that funding, which we receive now, EVIT is proposing that the first year of the next (intergovernmental agreement) that these satellites receive 83%," said Erin McRae, director of college and career readiness and career and technical education with the Queen Creek Unified School District.

The cuts will continue at about 2% to 3% each year for the contract.

"Essentially, by the time the five years have passed there will have



A color guard brings in flags for an East Valley Institute of Technology graduation ceremony in May. Chandler, Queen Creek and other districts that contract with EVIT for satellite services are opposed to proposed funding cuts and accountability measures. (Courtesy of EVIT)

been significant cuts to each satellite district to run their programs," McRae said.

Under the satellite program, students can take CTE classes on their high school campuses rather than going to two East Valley Institute of Technology locations in east and west Mesa.

Of concern to Queen Creek and Chandler officials is discussion of an effort by EVIT to alter intergovernmental agreements it has with nine East Valley school districts in Maricopa and Pinal counties that have more than 24,000 students enrolled in satellite programs. Funding for the

CTE satellite programs is distributed through EVIT.

Queen Creek has 2,600 students participating in 35 district programs. Though Chandler has more than twice as many, a spokesperson said CUSD's goals with career and technical education haven't changed.

"Our goal is to preserve equitable access to high-quality, on-campus or satellite CTE programs that serve students' best interests," CUSD's Stephanie Ingersoll wrote in an email. "Currently, high-level discussions are underway to continue the

• See **Funding** on page 26

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NEIGHBORS

TURTLE TAKEOFF

Chandler High alum wrote script for first Ninja Turtles film

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Bobby Herbeck says it's the surprise that kept him in business.

The idea of the first Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' live-action movie doing well in theaters in the spring of 1990 wasn't a surprise to Herbeck and the film's other writers — but it was a surprise to the studio.

"Writers and directors are often more optimistic than studios," Herbeck said. "We thought the film would do well. But we didn't know it would do 'that' well."

The TMNT franchise had gone from popular comic books to a household name with the animated series that debuted in 1987, so it was unclear to some how well a movie would be received.

Herbeck wrote the story for the film that used the characters developed by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman in the mid-1980s. The 1990 film would eventually lead to eight Ninja Turtles movies to date.

Herbeck, a 1963 Chandler High School graduate, made some public appearances in August in the Valley for showings of the 1990 Ninja Turtles film that was re-released to commemorate its 35th anniversary.

The Ninja Turtles project is one of the main career highlights for Herbeck, 80, who dwells in Cave Creek these days.

"It's been a part of who I am, for, basically, half my



Bobby Herbeck poses at a recent fan event. Herbeck, a Chandler High School alum and current Cave Creek resident, made an appearance in August for 35th-anniversary showings of the film he wrote the story for: the first Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie. (Courtesy of Bobby Herbeck)

life," Herbeck said. "I'm glad I got to be a part of it."

Herbeck bemoans the heavy emphasis on movie technology and special effects that have become industry staples and have even crept into the Ninja Turtle franchise; Michael Bay directed two TMNT films in the 2010s.

"I think viewers want them to go back to the original look," Herbeck said. "A lot of moviegoers are smart. A few have come up to me and talked about the father-figure stuff involving (The) Shredder."

• See **Turtles** on page 28

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Chandler man releases second book

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Alan Ramias began writing stories as a child and never stopped.

After graduating from high school in rural Wisconsin in 1965 — just as the Vietnam War was escalating — he served as an Army reporter and editor, documenting life on the ground in the Mekong Delta and

other regions, according to a news release.

"Miss Moon: Stories and Poems" was released in June. It follows his first work, "The Bridge," released last year.

When Ramias returned home from Vietnam, he earned degrees in

• See **Book** on page 30



Arizona's Special Olympics held an annual statewide conference Aug. 8 at the San Marcos Hotel in downtown Chandler. On the left are national wrestling champion and Hamilton High School coach Anthony Robles; second from the right, between two other officers, is Mesa Police Lt. Bill Peters. (Courtesy of Bill Peters)

Chandler hosts Special Olympics conference

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

East Valley Rotary clubs, Rotarians and friends of Rotarians raised almost \$10,000 to sponsor an annual conference and to raise money for Special Olympics.

The conference, held at the San Marcos Hotel in Chandler on Aug. 8, included about 150 law enforcement officers and Special Olympics athletes from across the state for the one-day annual conference, according to a news release.

Participating members were provided updates on Special Olympics programs, shared fundraising ideas, and were encouraged to continue efforts supporting athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The keynote speaker was Anthony Robles, a Mesa native and current coach at Hamilton High School.

• See **Conference** on page 28



"Miss Moon" is the more recent of two books released within the past year by author Alan Ramias of Chandler. (Courtesy of Alan Ramias)



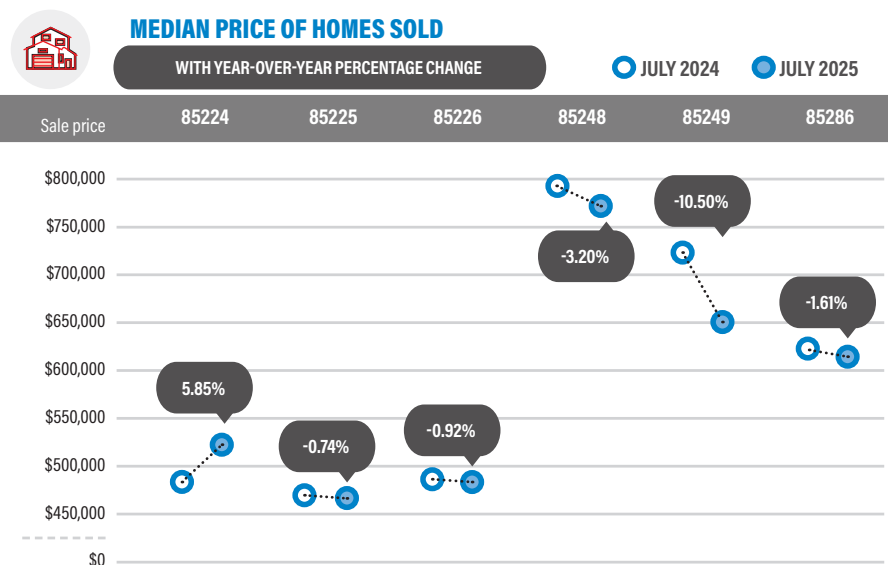
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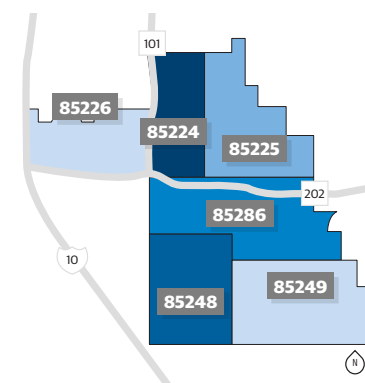
	JULY 2024	JULY 2025
85224	51	79
85225	100	170
85226	46	61
85248	59	96
85249	110	166
85286	84	137

AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET

	JULY 2024	JULY 2025
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85225	37	62
85226	27	68
85248	61	80
85249	57	77
85286	48	59

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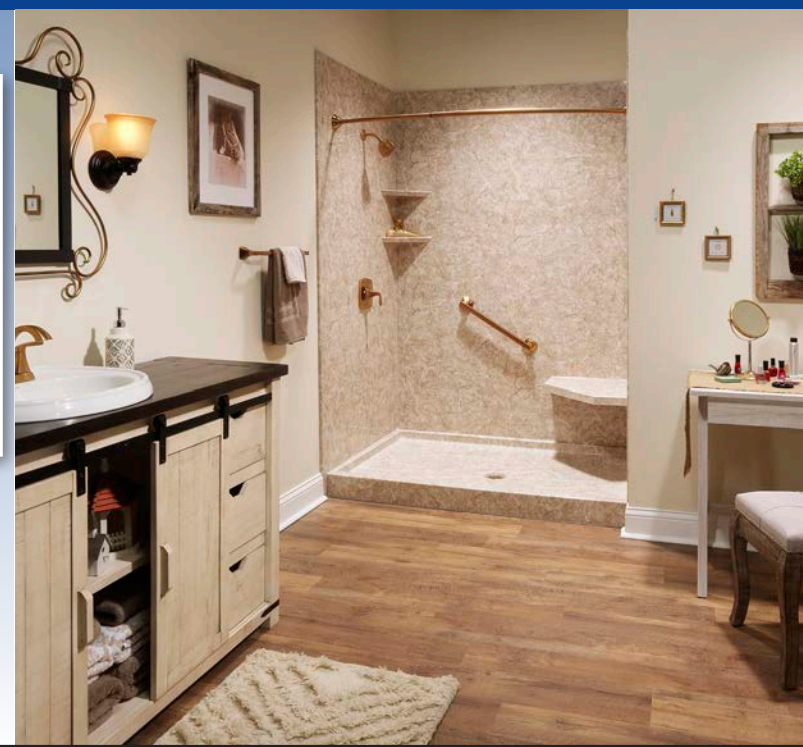
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Coach

• From page 1

squad has won three of the first five crowns in the recently formed, 16-team Gymnastics Association of College Teams, or GymACT. Aspire, the Chandler Fashion Center-area gym where the Sun Devil men and a junior team train under Survick's tutelage, was scheduled to celebrate its 30th anniversary Saturday, Sept. 13 with family-friendly activities and games and live demonstrations from Aspire athletes as a daylong event. These days, Survick still makes it to practice, and while he's made it past the typical five-year window since diagnosis of ALS, for which there's no cure, he has handed off most coaching to Aspire owner Scott Barclay and former student, turned-coach Brian Kern. "One of the big keys to keeping

this thing going for 30 years has been people like Rob, who's been with us as long as we've been in this building (in about 2005)," Barclay said. "You wouldn't see all those champions' names on the wall without their hard work and the work of coaches like Rob." ALS often presents in its early stages with gradual muscle stiffness, twitches, weakness and wasting. After Survick noticed some symptoms and doctors finally determined in 2020 that he had ALS and not a pinched nerve or another problem, he began to slowly lose the use of his arms and legs. By the time the Arizona Diamondbacks reached the 2023 World Series, in October of that year, that's about when he started to need a wheelchair full-time to go anywhere, he said. And 2024 marked the end of out-of-state trips. Eventually, he'll lose his ability to speak. After Survick was picked up by a



Gymnastics coach Rob Survick reflects for a moment as coach Brian Kern, directly behind him, briefs a group of young athletes before an afternoon workout. Aspire owner Scott Barclay said Survick is one of the main people who kept the gym and its athletes connected to high levels of competition as the gym reaches its 30th birthday with a daylong Saturday, Sept. 13 celebration. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

gymnast and moved, via wheelchair, from one old recliner chair in the Aspire gym to another on a September afternoon, Survick pointed out that nearly every ALS patient finds themselves in a dark place once they're first diagnosed. "It's important to think of this as a disease we live with, not that we're dying of it," he said. Most cases of ALS, or about 90-95%, have no known cause, and are known as sporadic ALS. While genetic and environmental factors are believed to be involved, Survick's children

have been tested and don't appear to have the genes for ALS, he said. Survick has surpassed the five-year life expectancy and plans to keep coaching as long as he can, along with dealing with ongoing medical costs. To contribute, reach out to aspirekidsports.com or go-fundme.com/f/help-rob-fight-als. Survick only needs to look around the gym to see the people who motivate him in his daily routine and in life. "My wife and my kids are the most important people in my life," Survick said. "But this sure is important, too."

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Expansion

• From page 6

creation of “potentially 200 additional manufacturing, R&D and services jobs in the semiconductor field over a five-year period.”

In Arizona, Applied states, the company is “already a key part of the state’s high-tech ecosystem, collaborating closely with customers, partners and universities.”

“Applied Materials’ new advanced manufacturing facility will further bolster Arizona’s robust semiconductor ecosystem and strengthen U.S. supply chain resiliency,” said Sandra Watson, president and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority, in the release. “Across important areas such

as equipment, R&D, and workforce training, Applied has been a tremendous industry partner, and we’re grateful for their continued leadership and commitment to Arizona.”

The company states that the technology it creates is essential to advancing AI and accelerating the commercialization of next-generation chips.

No one from Applied Materials could be reached directly to answer questions or comment for this story.

The city of Chandler’s Economic Development team released a statement saying most of what it knows about Applied’s plans is what was announced in their press release and what was previously included in a Chandler City Council memo for a sustainable water service agreement.

In that memo, the team states, Applied generated \$27 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2024.

The memo stated Applied was in negotiations to purchase has purchased a 180,000-square foot industrial building at 2377 South Arizona Ave., between Germann and Queen Creek roads.

“The company plans to make a significant capital investment in building improvements and equipment purchases to turn it into an advanced manufacturing facility,” the memo states. “Multiple business units will operate in the facility to serve the region’s growing semiconductor industry. The activities within the building will include advanced manufacturing, research and development, and the service of semiconductor equip-

ment and parts.”

Regarding their role in the tech landscape, the Chandler Econ team states, Applied is “a critical part of the chip manufacturing supply chain. For example, they are consistently recognized by Intel and TSMC in their annual supplier awards.”

The teams states that locally, the existing Chandler office has historically supported Intel by providing installation and maintenance of Applied equipment used in Intel’s fabs.

In addition to Applied’s plans for Chandler, the company’s Materials-to-Fab Center partnership with Arizona State University is a recent and noteworthy investment that strengthens the East Valley’s regional semiconductor industry,, the team stated.

Business

• From page 6

Black Business Month.

The Black Chamber of Arizona, in

partnership with the city of Chandler showcased resources, funding opportunities and educational partnerships.

The Chamber formally announced its 2025 Community Survey during

the event — a statewide effort to identify challenges and growth opportunities for Black-owned and small businesses, and to guide future programming, advocacy and funding.

For more information or to access the 2025 Community Survey, visit blackchamberaz.com.

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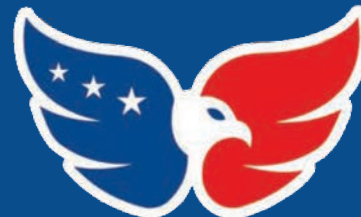

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EDUCATION

Funding

• From page 14

funding and support structure for satellite CTE programs.”

At issue seems to be actual dollar totals, in terms of how much funding needs to move from EVIT to districts to pay for programming. One EVIT board member, in the Aug. 11 meeting, said a Tempe district has a balance of \$15 million in a relevant account, showing districts are receiving more than the cost of service and don't need the funding levels they've been receiving.

Ingersoll didn't point out any rollover balance Chandler Unified might have in CTED-usable funds from any school year to the next, but echoed Queen Creek leaders' sentiment in CUSD not wanting to change formulas currently in place.

“We believe our data highlights the benefits of maintaining the system that already exists,” Ingersoll wrote.

Ingersoll said it appears there may be misinformation from the county superintendent and EVIT board members regarding satellite CTE programs that she and CUSD want to clarify. She then pointed out the high success rates of Chandler's CTE programs, such as 100% compliance with regulations, 99% of district CTE programs designated as distinguished or proficient by the Arizona Department of Education Quality and Compliance review.

Chandler's CTE students earned 3,645 industry-recognized credentials in 2024-25, its programs received high ratings, students perform well in interscholastic CTE competitions, and 100% of its CTE teachers have had industry experience and/or have

relevant current industry credentials, Ingersoll wrote.

Ingersoll wrote that if EVIT were to cut funding for all or specific satellite CTE programs, it's unclear how the board would allocate the money it already receives from districts.

In a letter sent to parents, EVIT said funding and structural changes to the satellite program would be the result of an audit by the Arizona Auditor General's Office.

According to the letter, the audit “emphasized the EVIT governing board is ultimately responsible for the quality and content of all CTE programs within our district, both at EVIT and in our district's high schools. Our previous method of calculating costs and allocating funds does not align with best practices used statewide. We're asking to adopt the same funding structure used by

other large career technical education districts in Arizona. To be clear, this isn't about EVIT wanting more money.”

EVIT is proposing to add more “accountability measures” to the intergovernmental agreements, measuring program persistence, student-completion rates, and the number of certifications earned by students.

“(EVIT has) been calling out that they're responsible for the quality and the content. They don't feel that the quality and the content at the high schools is the same as the quality and content at EVIT — which is not true,” McRae said. “We have a lot of certifications and quite a number of award-winning programs. So, that part of their messaging is not accurate.”

Janet Perez contributed to this article.. She can be reached at can be reached at jperez@iniusa.org.

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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.

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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.

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Conference

• From page 16

Robles is a three-time wrestling All-American and 2011 NCAA Division 1 National Champion. He is an inductee of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, and Arizona State University Sun Devil Athletics Hall of Fame.

Robles told of the obstacles he's faced in achieving wrestling successes despite being born with only one leg, as documented in the recently released movie "Unstoppable."

There are nearly 22,000 Special Olympics athletes in Arizona who participate in 21 different sporting events at 675 regional competitions and four state-level events.

While competition and sportsmanship are major components of Special Olympics programs, the organization also provides people

with intellectual disabilities of all ages assistance of many types.

This help includes assistance meeting health needs like eye exams, hearing exams and dental work, the release states.

The Special Olympics program fosters leadership and confidence among its athletes, the release states.

Many athletes describe participation in Special Olympics Athletic events as empowering them physically and socially. Programs are inclusive of athletes regardless of their disabilities.

Nationally, law enforcement is the top fundraising element for the Special Olympics. In Arizona alone, officers raise almost \$1.1 million annually through fundraising events like the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Tip-a-Cop and Fuel of Dreams.

During the Aug. 8 conference, other fundraising opportunities

were shared by different communities, such as pickleball tournaments, school events and vehicle pull competitions. The conference is critical to continuing and enhancing fundraising by law enforcement in Arizona, the release states.

Sponsorship and fundraising not only allowed the conference to happen, but also allowed officers, many from remote areas, to attend at no cost to their organization. Almost half of such sponsorships came from East Valley Rotary clubs, Rotarians or friends of Rotarians.

For more information on volunteering opportunities or other ways to support Special Olympics Arizona, click here: tinyurl.com/mrykypn

Interested in joining a service-oriented Rotary club in the area? Learn more by clicking on rotary5495.org.

Turtles

• From page 16

Herbeck grew up a military family kid, ending up in Chandler his sophomore year of high school when his father was at Williams Air Force Base.

"There were a lot more dusty roads in the Valley then," he said about Chandler in the early 1960s.

In the entertainment business, Herbeck's first TV show as an actor was The Outsider series in the late 1960s; the short-lived series starred Darren McGavin.

His first feature film was "Tora! Tora! Tora!" after his agent passed on him playing the part of Radar O'Reilly in the M.A.S.H. film, he recalls.

"What was he thinking?" Herbeck said of his agent.

That was followed by other TV shows and stage in various roles, such as Angie, Alice, Room 222, the Red Skelton Comedy Hour, the Smothers Brothers Show, CHiPs, The

• See **Turtles** on page 29



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NEIGHBORS

Turtles

• From page 28

Jeffersons, Small Wonder, the Carol Burnett Show and That's Incredible.

He appeared in seven episodes of Diff'rent Strokes.

And he finally made it to M.A.S.H., appearing in one 1974 episode as an operating-room patient.

Herbeck said he's a charter member of the Comedy Store troupe at the Hollywood club that opened in April of 1972. He says he and his troupe turned down the offer to do the Saturday Night Live pilot back in 1975.

"What were 'we' thinking?," Herbeck said.

He's also been the opening-act stand-up comedian for musicians, including George Benson, Jose Feliciano, Ricky Nelson, Al Jarreau, Kenny Loggins, Joe Cocker, Eric Burdon, Dave Mason and, most recently, at the Hollywood Bowl for the Zac Brown band.

Herbeck said his first love is to make people feel good through the power of laughter.

"It's the best elixir for whatever ails you," he said.

His writing credits also include the Facts of Life, Silver Spoons and the Dick Clark Bloopers Show. He was a co-producer of the Leslie Nielsen / Kelly Le Brock 1998 comedy "Wrongfully Accused."

Herbeck is currently co-writing and co-producing a feature for Columbia Pictures. He said he was cast in at least one production that was shrunk by the 2024 Hollywood labor strikes.

Herbeck's TV commercial credits include some brands of the past and present: Oldsmobile, Sanka coffee, Kawasaki, Von's grocery store and even the WAZE app.



Bobby Herbeck poses at a recent fan event. (Courtesy of Bobby Herbeck)

Herbeck has also done voice-over characters, including one for the Gormorrah streaming series.

It was the Turtles, however, that gave him his big break. "The Secret of the Ooze" 1991 film, the sequel to the 1990 film Herbeck wrote, had an opening weekend of \$20 million in ticket sales and made \$78.7 million in the U.S., making it the country's 13th-highest grossing film of 1991.

Herbeck said the re-release includes never-before-seen footage from the archives, extended scenes that had initially been trimmed from the original 93-minute film; behind-the-scenes footage and one-on-one time and commentary with director Steve Barron.

He also enjoys living in Cave Creek and visiting some of his favorite restaurants, such as Harold's and the Black Mountain Cafe & Lounge in Carefree.

"It's quiet out here," Herbeck said. "Thanks to the Internet, you don't have to live in L.A. to do a lot of entertainment stuff."

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NEIGHBORS

Book

• From page 16

English, philosophy, and business, launching a corporate career that blended communication, learning and performance strategy.

Ramias eventually made his way to Chandler.

Working at Motorola, he helped found Motorola University and played a key role in early process improvement projects that laid the groundwork for Six Sigma.

Ramias later became a partner at the Rummler-Brache Group, leading global consulting engagements for major companies like Shell, 3M, and HP, and mentoring teams across Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

As a partner at The Performance Design Lab, he co-authored two foundational books on organizational performance with his mentor, Geary

Rummler, the release states.

Now turning his attention back to storytelling, Ramias draws on decades of personal and professional experiences to craft fiction that explores the complexities of memory, war, and human motivation.

Ramias' first two works draw deeply from his service as a U.S. Army journalist and court-martial clerk in Vietnam, blending fiction and poetry to capture the unspoken aftermath of war, the release states.

Through the eyes of Charlie, a recently returned soldier haunted by memory and betrayal, Ramias layers intimate stories and lyrical poems that speak both to veterans seeking recognition and to civilians looking for understanding.

The release states readers of Tim O'Brien's or Karl Marlantes' work will enjoy it. Ramias' work offers the

perspective of the interior lives of ordinary enlisted men, around themes like loneliness, survival, friendship, love in impossible circumstances.

The book attempts to reach deep into the psyches of soldiers sent to Vietnam, offering three stories — each based on real-life characters and incidents:

- Friends struggle with clashing emotions of love and jealousy while navigating loneliness and the dangers of a war that had no boundaries or front lines.

- A young man is forced to live the ungodly experiences of war by a controlling monster of a father.

- A worn and tattered veteran returns home to an endless darkness of broken promises, trashed friendships, an unfeeling family and an indifferent hometown.

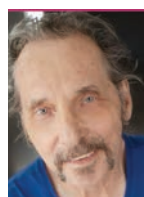
The second half of the book, according to its online description,

is a collection of poetry written by Ramias over a span of 40 years: humorous, reflective, experimental, and always fascinated with language and imagery, the description states.

"The Bridge," released in August 2024, is a tale about the bridges — real and imagined — that soldiers built in Southeast Asia or that we build in our minds just to get through, the release states.

Ramias weaves together fiction, raw memory, poetic fragments, and documentary realism to deliver an account of what it meant to serve, survive and remember, the release states.

Moving between gritty squad banter, haunting lyricism, and the quiet desperation of men unprepared for the long shadows of war, this is a novel viewed through the eyes of four soldiers and other characters amid the humid confusion of Vietnam's Mekong Delta.



Alan Ramais

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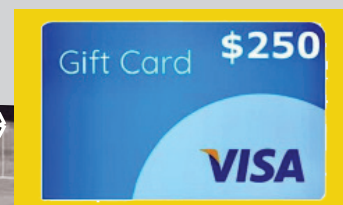
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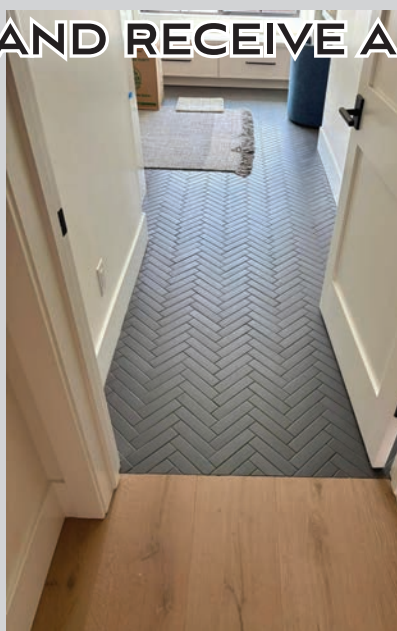
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