



Council to vote on raising water rates

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A recent virtual Tempe City Council meeting had few public comments, and there were no comments on a proposal to increase the rates for water, wastewater and solid waste.

A hearing regarding raising the water and waste rates is at 6 p.m. Nov. 6 in the council chambers at Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. in Tempe.

Currently Tempe charges \$12.10 for 5/8 inch of water used as a fixed monthly charge, the most common option for single family homes. This is also the least expensive option as more usage leads to higher prices.

The National Oceanic and Atmosphere Association considers the Phoenix metro to be in an "extreme drought." While this is not new to Arizona, population increase and water use have accelerated.

The Tempe Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste study per-

• See **Water** on page 5

Team blesses custom-built adaptive canoe

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe Town Lake serves as a pillar for recreation, social and educational gatherings, but now, a new rig has landed on the water—and this one welcomes all.

Ability 360, a local nonprofit aimed at creating inclusive and safe spaces for people and children with disabilities of all kinds, was gifted funds by The Hartford Insurance Co.'s adaptive sports program in partnership with

• See **Canoe** on page 27



From front to back, Kaitlyn Verfuert, Monique Biggs, Sabina Harrington, Gus LaZear and Ryan Udarbe on the adaptive canoe maiden voyage on Tempe Town Lake. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

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Ella Meaker won the 2025 Carson Scholarship. (Tempe Prep High School)

Tempe Prep Junior Ella Meaker wins 2025 Carson Scholarship

Tempe Preparatory Academy junior Ella Meaker has been awarded the 2025 Carson Scholarship, joining an elite group of just 579 students nationwide recognized for academic excellence and humanitarian service.

The \$1,000 scholarship, awarded by the Carson Scholars Fund, honors students who exemplify high academic achievement, strong character, and a deep commitment to community service.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/2ecvk3sr>

Former ASU professor wins Nobel in chemistry

Former Arizona State University chemistry professor Omar Yaghi was awarded the 2025 Nobel Prize in chemistry for discoveries made in the 1990s while at ASU.

Yaghi established a new study of chemistry called “reticular chemistry,” which is the study of molecular building blocks and crystalized frameworks in chemical compounds.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/7evm-6mau>.

MICROBURST

Residents urged to document recent storm damage

Governor declares state of emergency in Tempe

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs joined Maricopa County and Tempe officials in declaring a state of emergency in the city following a storm on Oct. 13.

The declarations are needed to be able to move forward to apply for potential federal funding to assist homeowners and businesses, according to a city release.

Tempe is continuing to assess storm damage and urges residents to document any effects the storm has had on their property. To make a report, go to <https://tinyurl.com/3kv8ryn9>.

“We need everyone in Tempe that suffered any kind of damage, from broken windows to loss of business, to fill out the damage assessment form. These completed assessment forms will assist us with qualifying for much-needed funds that will greatly aid in our community’s recovery effort,” it states in a release.

Microburst storm

As tropical storm Priscilla made landfall, Tempe was at the center of destruction during a microburst storm.

In a release from the city of Tempe, officials said it was a “significant microburst” that caused considerable damage in an area bounded by Guadalupe, Elliott, Kyrene and Rural roads.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods said during a press conference that in his 22 years of living in the city, he had never seen a storm create such destruction. Following the storm, Woods encour-



Downed trees were a common sight around Tempe after a storm blew through the area. (Independent Newsmedia, Tom Blodgett)

aged residents to take care of one another during a difficult time.

“In Tempe, the people are the most important thing that we have; they are the livelihood of this community,” he said.

Additionally, Woods asked all Tempe residents to take care of one another and assist in any way possible with storm clean-up and housing support.

Phoenix Zoo had significant damage with staff working around the clock to clean up fallen trees, debris, and even ZooLight decorations that fell and became damaged. No people or animals were hurt at the zoo during the storm.

Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management is actively coordinating with the city of Tempe, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, and other local and state partners. County-led Emergency Operations Center teams and joint damage assessment teams have started surveying property damage to evaluate the full extent of the storm’s impact on homes and businesses.

Based on initial reports — including flyover surveys, media coverage and

on-the-ground assessments — Maricopa County may qualify for federal assistance that could provide the following resources to residents and businesses:

FEMA Individual Assistance for homeowners and renters with uninsured or underinsured damages.

Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loans, offering low-interest financial assistance to help businesses and residents recover from storm-related losses.

Recent damage assessments have confirmed impacts to at least 105 homes, according to a Maricopa County release.

It will take several weeks for state and federal partners to validate the damage assessments and determine eligibility for federal disaster assistance. If approved, the maximum FEMA Individual Assistance grant is \$43,600, though most payouts are smaller and do not require repayment. SBA loans, which are processed more quickly, must be repaid but are offered at low interest rates, it states.

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

FROM THE COVER

Water

• From page 1

formed by Stantec recommended that rates increase by 12% for FY 2025 and in the years after. It also recommended that wastewater rates increase by 16.5% and that solid waste increases by 4% for 2025.

All of these services are paid for from the General Fund which is established with tax dollars and rate fees.

Tempe will also move to adopt an ordinance on moving funds to take on debt service payments for the water and wastewater fund. There were no public comments on this item. There were also no comments from the members of council.

"I have to say that I'm shocked," Mayor Corey Woods



A Central Arizona Project canal carries Colorado River water into the Valley. (Independent News-media/Tom Blodgett)

said at the Sept. 2 virtual meeting.

In the city's \$812 million operating budget, \$107 million was allocated to water and wastewater in the 2024-25 fiscal year resulting in a 3.4% increase from 2023 at around \$103 million. The solid waste budget was the only one

that decreased at 3% from \$31 million to \$30 million.

For information on the Tempe water, wastewater and solid waste rate adjustment, go to <https://tinyurl.com/4rcm39ej>.

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BUSINESS

Spinato's Pizzeria to be part employee-owned

By Madeline Bates

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Spinato's Pizzeria, a local Valley family-owned business, will now be 49% owned by its employees through an employee stock program, allowing all positions to "have a piece of the pie."

Employee Stock Ownership Programs are in less than 1% of businesses statewide and roughly 7,000 in the U.S., according to the National Center for Employee Ownership.

Spinato's is one of about 100 restaurants in the state that offer this program, it states at the organization's website, <https://www.nceo.org>.

"This is who we are, this is what we need to preserve and protect," said CEO Anthony Spinato.

To qualify, employees must be 21 and work 1,000 hours in a 12-month period. This makes one in three employees owners in the business being able to buy and sell stock of the business and share in its success. After over 50 years in business, the Spinato family will reduce its share of the company to allow others a chance to share in the business's success.



Terry Wiberg, Spinato's food and beverage director, and Anthony Spinato, Spinato's CEO. Wiberg started with Spinato's 24 years ago as a dishwasher and now is a co-owner of the company through the recent Employee Stock Ownership Plan. (Angela Moneyhon)

"It feels like it always was," said Spinato, who said that many employees were natural leaders and led one another to share in the success of each restaurant.

For some employees, this means getting a long-awaited taste of success.

Terry Wiberg first started working at Spinato's as a dishwasher when he was in high school. Now, 24 years lat-

er, he is the director of food and beverage and works right next to Anthony and the other Spinato's employees both in the office and in the kitchen.

"I've really found my passion for food and hospitality," he said. "You can't fake ownership, and an ESOP is ownership."

Spinato's has locations in Tempe, along with the corporate office, as well as Gilbert, Ahwatukee, Scotts-

dale and north and central Phoenix. Wiberg and Spinato are both looking for ways to expand both in menus and locations, as the Spinato name has made its way across the Valley and into major sports stadiums like State Farm Stadium in Glendale and Mortgage Matchup Arena in downtown Phoenix.

But Spinato's isn't typical stadium pizza, as every single pizza is cooked in-house and served immediately to ensure that the same product is sold at every location.

Spinato's is a family-owned business that began in 1974 with the Spinato family bringing pizza from the Chicago area to Tempe to create thick-crust pizza with quality ingredients and a community atmosphere.

"We're in the people business," Spinato said.

All Spinato's locations are closed on Monday and open at 11 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday. For more information visit Spinato's Pizzeria.

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

Tempe business building hangar at Mesa airport

By Richard H. Dyer

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The look and landscaping for a proposed 21,211-square-foot aircraft hangar at Falcon Field Airport in Mesa were discussed recently by the Mesa Design Review Board.

The city of Mesa owns the 2.5 acres approximately 1,300 feet west of North Higley Road on the north side of East Falcon Drive. Kristen Luciano of Synectic Design is the ap-

plicant.

Hangar vehicle access will be from the south on Falcon Drive, Staff Planner Charlotte Bridges told the board.

"Landscape plan shows the required landscaping along Falcon Drive and then the entire parking-lot landscaping as well as foundation-base landscaping," she said. "The building elevations are mostly metal. On the south elevation there are some changes in the metal mate-

rial as well as some black accents trying to create a motif for a helicopter rotator blade."

The pre-engineered metal building airplane hangar for Van Horn Aviation is to include 17,593 square feet for helicopter storage, 1,633 square feet of office area for staff and two restrooms, and a 1,985-square-foot mezzanine area, according to a written project narrative from Synectic Design Inc.

Van Horn Aviation is a privately held small business based in Tempe with corporate offices and production facilities, it states.

"The company focuses on the design, testing, certification and manufacturing of composite rotor blades for a range of helicopter models. The composite rotor blades provide various performance improvements from

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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Richard H. Dyer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

LIQUOR LICENSES

The Tempe City Council at a recent meeting voted to make a recommendation of approval to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for the following:

1 • A series 6 bar liquor license sought for **Castro's on Baseline**. The license is for Castro's on Baseline LLC, 1807 E. Baseline Road No. 101. Jeffrey Craig Miller is the agent for this application. This is a new business applying for a new license. The applicant

is operating with an interim permit.

2 • A series 7 beer and wine bar liquor license for **Conquer Padel Club**. The license is for Conquer Padel Holdings LLC, 7760 S. Priest Drive No. 108. Amy S. Nations is the agent for this application. This is a new business applying for a new license.

3 • A series 9s liquor store liquor license with sampling privilege for **Star Liquor and Convenience**. The license is for D&A Reserve LLC, 1512 N. Scottsdale Road. Ashor Hermis Haron is the agent for this application. This is an established business with new ownership, applying for a new license, where the previous tenant held the same type of liquor license. The applicant is operating with an interim permit.

4 • A series 12 restaurant liquor license is being sought for **Mac Daddy Wingz and Cheeze**. The license is for Mac Daddy Wingz and Cheeze LLC, 3134 S. Mill Ave. Juanita Alicia Esparza is the agent for this application. This is an established business applying for a new license.

5 • A series 12 restaurant liquor license with growler privileges is being sought for **Dog Haus Biergarten Tempe**. The license is for Haus of Ott LLC, 430 N. Scottsdale Road No. 110. Damon Daniel Ott is the agent for this application. This is a new business applying for a new license, where the previous tenant held the same type of liquor license. The applicant is operating with an interim permit.

6 • A series 12 restaurant liquor license is being sought for **Bad Jimmy's**. The license is for BJ Four LLC, 505 W. University Drive. Andrea Dahlman Lewkowitz is the agent for this application. This is a new business applying for a new license, where the previous tenant held the same type of liquor license.



LIQUOR LICENSES



TRUWEST

IN THE NEWS

7 **TruWest**, an Arizona Credit Union with branches in the valley including in Tempe at 1345 W. Warner Road, joined Arizona Credit Union Week Oct. 13-17 to shine a spotlight on the work credit unions to do empower financial independence. <https://truwest.org>.

NOW OPEN

Five restaurants recently opened:

8 • **Prince Street Pizza**, 680 S. Mill Ave.: New York-style Pizza with simple ingredients and scratch-made dough.

9 • **Arizona Pizza Co.**, 400 E. Rio Salado Parkway: wings, sandwiches, sushi, and breakfast options.

10 • **Gio's Coffee**, 414 S. Mill Ave. Suite 111: organic fairtrade coffee, tea and homemade goods for a snack any time of day.

11 • **Willie's Taco Joint**, 511 S. Farmer Ave.: tacos, margaritas and a rooftop bar.

12 • **Rite Yah Suh**, 502 S. College Ave. Suite 103: Caribbean flavors from the streets of Jamaica, including jerk chicken and curry.

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BOOKS

Tempe author wins awards for historical fiction novel

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Charlotte Whitney is relatively new to Tempe, but not to writing.

During the course of her career she's written five books, three of which are novels. But now she can add the title of award-winning author.

Whitney's book "A Tiny Piece of Blue" won the 2025 American Fiction Awards for Historical Fiction, the 2025 IPPY Gold Medal for historical fiction and is a finalist for the 2025 Hawthorne Prize.

The book tells the story of a girl during the Great Depression in Calhoun County, Michigan, who relies on a middle-aged couple who have a dairy farm after her house burns down in a fire.

When she was about 12 years old, Whitney asked her maternal grandmother about life during the Great Depression and heard stories about her mother, Mary, who had a little lamb as a pet that had to be slaughtered during times with food scarcity. This story and many more inspired her various novels set during the Depression.

Whitney knew she wanted to create a work of fiction around the event but includes real elements and events from what her family went through. Her first book set during the time, "The Unveiling of Polly Forest," is a mystery about a woman who loses her husband to a farm accident in rural Michigan.

She was a finalist for other awards, but "A Tiny Piece of Blue" went further.

"It's nice to have the recognition and to be a winner instead of a finalist," she said.

Whitney and her husband were long-term Ann-Arbor, Michigan, residents, and both worked in academia.



Charlotte Whitney is an award-winning author for her historical fiction novel "A Tiny Piece of Blue." (Photo courtesy of Charlotte Whitney)

After hearing from friends and family who lived in the Valley, the couple took a chance and spent six weeks in Tempe one winter. The next year they returned for nearly six months before deciding to make Tempe their permanent home in 2016.

Whitney has written two other historical fiction novels but is especially proud of "A Tiny Piece of Blue" as she spent years doing research at the Tempe Public Library while she also worked as their Writer in Residence.

In her research, Whitney looked for primary sources from farmers, business owners and children who lived during the Depression. She looked through videos, stamps, books and interviewed people to understand more about the struggles of people in rural areas.

She said part of her research led her to a Farmer's Almanac from the 1930s, and after discussions and searching, a member of the Gieger family, the owners of the Almanac Publishing name, returned her call and sent her a copy all the way from Maine.

• See **Whitney** on page 28

COMMITTEE

Tempe Human Resources to allow youth members

Tempe residents aged 14 through 18 can now apply to sit on the Human Relations Committee and help shape city decisions.

There are up to two seats for Tempe high school students. Members would be required to attend monthly meetings with the rest of the HRC.

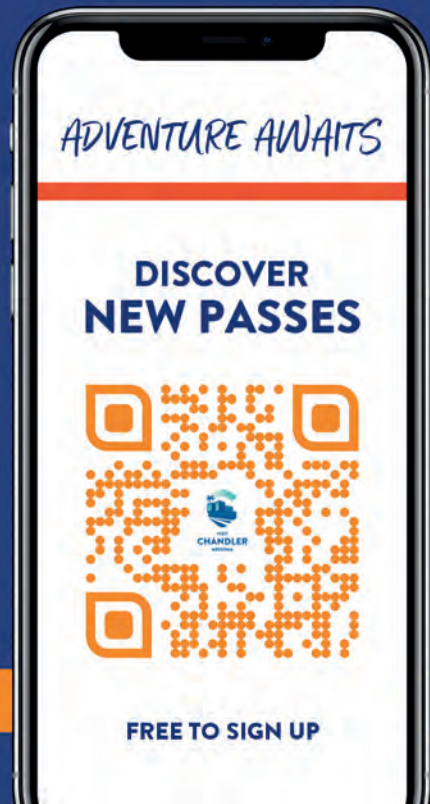
The HRC brings together residents to promote respect and understanding among the many people who live, work and spend time in Tempe. With the addition of youth members, the commission will now include 11 adult members and up to two high school-aged members.

The committee historically hosted the MLK Diversity Awards and presented the Native Land Acknowledgment. They will also participate in decisions regarding city ordinances and announcements.

Those interested can <https://tinyurl.com/eyjcn54h>.



There are up to two seats for Tempe high school students. (Metro Creative)



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NEIGHBORS

Tempe's Dixxon Flannel gives back honoring employee with breast cancer

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

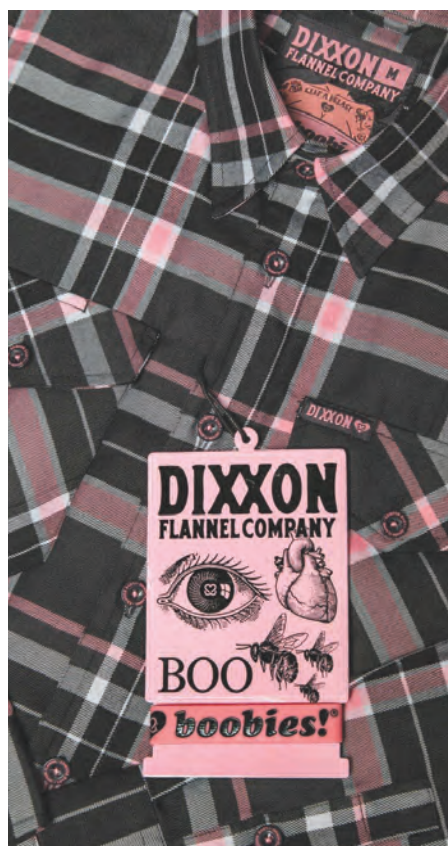
When Dixxon released its third annual collection of pink flannel shirts with nonprofit Keep a Breast, hundreds of shirts sold in minutes.

Tempe-based Dixxon and Keep a Breast are honoring the patients and survivors of breast cancer with "Breast Cancer Awareness Month" and pink plaid for everyone in the family.

For Dixxon employees, the cause is personal. Office manager Talie Bingham was diagnosed with breast cancer several years ago. After years of treatment and eventually being told she was in remission, the cancer came back, and she is in chemotherapy today.

"I am so blessed and grateful to be here with my Dixxon family," she said.

The Dixxon team said they knew from the start this would be a big project and wanted to choose an organization closely aligned with the brand and that also felt genuine. Keep a Breast is an international nonprofit that helps spread awareness and prevention methods of breast cancer, especially for un-



Dixxon Flannel to sell pink and black plaid shirts for breast cancer awareness. (Dixxon Flannel)

derserved communities.

Shaney Jo Darden, founder of Keep a Breast, is committed to

sharing stories.

"It's really a labor of love. Dixxon doesn't have to do any of this, but they do it for their community," she said.

Dixxon is particular in its collaborations and knew something this serious would require a brand with similar passions, values, and cool merchandise.

"When I was a teenager, the 'I love boobies' bracelets were the coolest thing," said Robby Keller, marketing director for Dixxon Flannel. "Now Shaney and her team have done an incredible job of speaking the right messaging to the right audience that was able to trickle down a generation."

Dixxon has raised more than \$50,000 since 2022 and continues to reach out to cancer survivors from Tempe and beyond who want to share their story with other patients while also giving a portion of the proceeds from other sales to other types of cancer efforts and other issues that need action in the community.

Keller, like many millennials and Gen Z, grew up seeing "I love boobies" rubber bracelets that became

popular with adults and teens.

Keep a Breast not only has colorful "boobie" merchandise, but has more than 25 years of business and operation to educate the public of signs and symptoms to help others find abnormalities.

The "Keep a Breast" app features a step-by-step guide, created by oncologists and researchers, that teaches everyone how and when to check for differences in their breasts, as well as what to look for in a healthy breast.

It also has a feature that reminds users to perform a breast exam at the end of their cycle to ensure a regular check. The app is free and available nationwide. Users can also read stories of other breast cancer survivors.

Dixxon has limited sizing available in women's prints and merchandise is available online and in store at 7200 S. Priest Drive in Tempe.

The store is open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The store is closed on Sunday.

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

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INDEPENDENT

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Nov. 21-23

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THINGS TO DO

NOV. 8

The Makers Hive Market

Visitors can browse local artisan vendors, shop nearly 40 unique small businesses, and enjoy offerings including custom clothing, permanent jewelry and hand-crafted candles.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. at The District at Tempe Marketplace, 2000 E. Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe.

For information, go to tempemarketplace.com.

NOV. 8

Tempe Jam

The fifth annual event is 6-10 p.m. at the Tempe Sports Complex, 8401 S. Hardy Drive, with free live music, local art, food trucks and cold beverages.

Tempe Playlist artists Mega Ran, Teri Tobin & Friends and DJ alic.e.km will light up the night with sounds. Also, catch interactive hula hooping performances by Evalina Tinklepaugh, brought to you by The Nines; hip-hop dance performances by Good2Go; and a drone show by Pulse Drones.

Spacey outfits are encouraged. Beer, wine and hard seltzers available for purchase from Tempe Diablos.

There will also be a special participatory art installation, How High the Moon, by artist Jennifer Tran. Capture your memories in a space-themed photo booth.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/4s95tsdn>

NOV. 19

Comedian Jeff Shaw

The "America's Got Talent" comedian and actor will be at Tempe Improv. He was part of season 15 of AGT before the pandemic cut content before it had aired. Despite this, he went on to create "Jeff with two F's" and "A Little More Animated," both can both be found on iTunes and Amazon for purchase. The show is a 21-and-older event and tickets are on sale at <https://www.tempeimprov.com/shows/323526>.

PETS



Funds are to be used to purchase and install industrial-grade laundry equipment in Lost Our Home's South Hardy Drive headquarters. (Lost Our Home Pet Rescue)

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue to hold Halloween events

Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, a nonprofit that takes in pets if their owners have long term difficulties, will host a series of events in October to raise money for operations.

Howl-O-Ween with Pedal Haus Brewery – noon-4 p.m. Oct. 26
Join for an afternoon of pups, pints and fun.

A portion of the proceeds from sales will be donated to Lost Our Home Pet Rescue. There will also be local dog vendors, a dog costume contest (with the first beer being \$1 for participants), and prizes for the best-dressed pups.

Murder Mystery Dinner – 6 p.m. Oct. 31 – Venture down to the certified haunted Hotel San Carlos for an evening of entertainment, dining and mystery as you enjoy the show Murder at the Vampire's Wedding. Get your tickets at <https://www.mysterymansion.com/tickets>.

ON STAGE

Arizona Theatre Co. presents 'Deceived' in Tempe

Adapted from 1938's *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton – the psychological thriller that gave rise to the term “gaslighting” — *Deceived* reimagines the story for contemporary audiences.

Arizona Theatre Co.'s *Deceived* runs Oct. 25-Nov. 9 at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Tickets are on sale now; prices begin at \$33. Tickets can be purchased at atc.org or 1-833-ATC-SEAT.

This new adaptation by Johnna Wright and Patty Jamieson explores the insidious nature of psychological manipulation, the fragility of trust, and the resilience it takes to break free from control. Suspenseful and emotionally charged, *Deceived* keeps audiences questioning what is real until the final moments, it states in a release. Helming the production is director



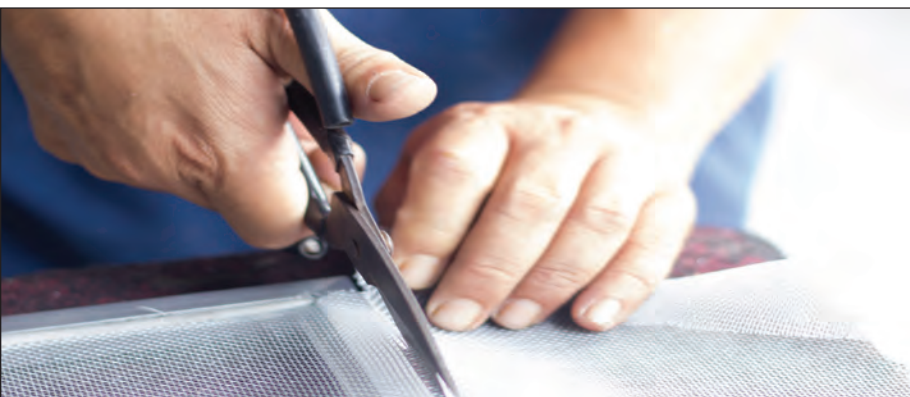
Laakan McHardy, Sarah-Anne Martinez, and Amelia White in Arizona Theatre Co.'s "Deceived." (Tim Fuller)

Jenn Thompson, known for her nuanced storytelling and gorgeous pro-

ductions across the country, most recently *Annie* starring Whoopi

Goldberg at Madison Square Garden, it states.

She is joined by a creative team including Phoenix native scenic designer Alexander Dodge, whose award-winning designs have graced Broadway, international Opera houses and beyond; Broadway lighting designer and Tucson native Philip Rosenberg; costume designer Patrick Holt, a professor at the University of Arizona who appeared on RuPaul's *Drag Race*; and sound designer Jane Shaw. “*Deceived* is an exciting launch for ATC's 58th season,” said Matt August, Kasser Family artistic director of Arizona Theatre Co. “Not only does it take audiences on a thrilling ride, but it also resonates with themes that feel strikingly urgent today. Are things real, or are we making them up in our head?”



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Jason Heavens, MD

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TABOO

Black Eyed Peas singer celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day in Tempe

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Black Eyed Peas singer and Grammy award winner Taboo was not afraid of speaking from the heart in both English and Spanish to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. Taboo was the speaker for a JPMorganChase event in Tempe aimed at celebrating Hispanic and Indigenous cultures. He spoke about his grandmother who was Shoshone and lived in Jerome, Arizona, before he and his family moved to East Los Angeles. "She was a person who would always be of service, and that's what inspired me," he said. Taboo has long been proud of his culture and caught the attention of others like the employees at JPMorganChase. Silvana Montenegro, global head of the Office of Hispanic and Latino Affairs for JPMorganChase, was thrilled to have someone with a rich cultural background celebrate with the team. "There's so much richness in our cultures and there's no light in America without the richness of Indigenous cultures," she said. The singer is a father of four and shared stories of singing and dancing in his grandmother's living room as a child. Decades later, he and other members of the Black Eyed Peas



Black Eyed Peas singer Taboo in Tempe, hosted by JPMorgan Chase. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

would headline Superbowl XLV in front of millions across the country. The singer recently released his song "East LA" with bandmate and best friend will.i.am, Black Eyed Peas lead singer and a newly hired Arizona State University professor who has a knack for AI use and innovations. The duo have been outspoken on political issues since the release of the 2003 song "Where Is the Love," released in honor of Sept. 11 and other tragedies involving gangs and hate in the early 2000s. Today, they continue to speak out on po-

litical issues and encourage their families to be just as passionate. Indigenous Peoples' Day for many has replaced the once known Columbus Day as a way for Native cultures to come together to celebrate storytelling, history and tradition as the first societies to inhabit the cities we know and love today. Christopher Columbus was an explorer who was later found to be controversial, as he owned slaves and brought diseases to Native tribes once he and his crew landed on the eastern seaboard of the Bahamas and other Caribbean

an islands. Many have changed the narrative of the holiday by celebrating the cultures that have worked so hard to stay alive centuries after war, famine and colonization. Taboo is one of few celebrities who speaks about his Indigenous roots and encourages his children to do the same. He said he has enjoyed passing down traditions and customs to his own children. That includes doing a land acknowledgment before games at his son's high school and teaching his children about growing up as an Urban Native and tapping into both his Indigenous and Mexican heritage. "It's beautiful because I'm able to tap into both cultures, appreciate both cultures, and be a voice for both cultures," he said. For many, the holiday was a potential day off work or school, but for Taboo and other Indigenous people, it was a celebration and a time to reflect on how to better represent Indigenous cultures. He has partnered with his children to be part of shows like "Dora" and is creating a Native American superhero based on himself and his grandmother to share the story of how he became an artist and activist alike.

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



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FOOTBALL

Arizona Cardinals to move practice facility from Tempe to North Phoenix

By Richard Smith
and Jeffrey Wendt

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Arizona Cardinals will move their longtime training headquarters from Tempe to a new facility at Paradise Ridge in North Phoenix, west of Scottsdale Road and north of Loop 101.

The new location, which will house both the football and business operations, will be the anchor to a mixed-use, 217-acre site, the team announced Tuesday. The facility will take 30 acres and total more than 250,000 square feet.

It is scheduled to be completed in 2028.

The Cardinals bought the prop-



The Cardinals released an artist rendering of the team's new practice facility slated to open in North Phoenix in 2028. (Illustration provided by Arizona Cardinals)

erty at auction this summer for \$136 million.

The team's current training center in Tempe, where the Cardinals have trained since 1990, is 14 acres and 156,000 square feet, according

to the team. The Cards previously considered upgrading the current Tempe location but decided on this new direction.

"As we evaluated our options, it became clear that we needed more

space than what was available at our current location or elsewhere in Tempe," Cardinals owner Michael Bidwill said in a statement. "We are deeply grateful to the city of Tempe for its incredible support over the past three decades and for its continued partnership. And we are just as excited to welcome this new chapter in our team's history."

The new area had been considered by the previous owners of the Arizona Coyotes as a possible location for that team's new arena before the team was sold and relocated to Utah.

There are many amenities in

• See **Cards** on page 25

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

LA CASA DE JUANA DELIVERS A KNOCKOUT WITH ITS FRESH, AUTHENTIC AND MOUTHWATERING FOOD

If you thought you have been to a Mexican restaurant lately you probably need to reconsider and visit La Casa De Juana. The fare is authentic Mexican, and when we say authentic we mean it. Upon entering you'll be dazzled by the colorful decor, the tables and chairs are beautiful, Mexican painted mural, colorful banners hanging from the ceiling and the gracious service. Warm orange and yellow tones echoing throughout the restaurant will make this your favourite Mexican Restaurant.

Take advantage of the great lunch and dinner specials, a bar with freshly made drinks. TV's and live guitar music for all ages on the weekends. Don't forget about the happy hour from 2 pm to 6 pm every day, with \$3 beer (domestic and imports) and \$5 margaritas this place is a must. The flavourful salsa, the delicious margaritas, the extraordinary and well-priced food will definitely keep you coming back.

Mention this article and receive one free dessert or appetizer when you purchase two entrees and two drinks at regular price (restaurant will provide options for appetizer or dessert)



Make Your Reservations Today

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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.

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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.

Kyrene should be looking for ways to attract students

The cumulative effect of demographic changes and nihilistic resignation to the perceived inadequacies of public education have landed at the feet of the Kyrene School District in the form of planned school closures.

These demographic shifts driven by many factors including housing prices outpacing wages, charter school siphoning, school vouchers, and overall decreases in the size of the population of school age children have brought this unprecedented but entirely predictable crisis to fruition.

Unfortunately, the decision reached by the district's long-range planning committee was for the closure of eight schools along with a general restructuring of how schools in the district are admin-

istered. Included in this closure is Kyrene de la Mariposa, an academic award-winning school. If the district wants to maintain education excellence its goal should not be to create a few large schools where students are prone to fall through the cracks, but strategically placed small/medium high-performance schools.

By admitting defeat now and consolidating the footprint of its schools Kyrene will be opening itself up to more retention issues. First and foremost, parents may decide the next best option provided is to move their students to neighboring districts or charter schools. This would open Kyrene up to more of the issues faced today and in 10 years will be planning the next series of school closures. Another possibility is that the state of Arizona may decide to push for

Please send your comments to Az0pinions@iniusa.org.

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

merging Kyrene with its neighboring districts.

Kyrene must reevaluate its decision criterion and move from a defensive approach to an offensive one. It should be looking into ways to attract students from neighboring communities and publicizing the quality of education provided by the district. It is also incumbent upon the community to vote for policies which ensure the furtherance of high-quality public education in the state of Arizona.

Ryan Swearingen
Tempe

SPEAK UP

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

ARIZONA CARDINALS TO MOVE PRACTICE FACILITY FROM TEMPE TO NORTH PHOENIX

"Great." — **Ginny Doyle via Nextdoor comment**

"If the fans get stuck with any part of the bill, then it's a bad idea. Cardinals need to pull their own weight financially." — **Rex Adams via Nextdoor comment**

"Not until they lower ticket prices or start winning." — **Peter Harris via Nextdoor comment**

"Can someone break down the financial particulars on this move?" — **Dave C. via Nextdoor comment**

"I'd rather have a 24/7 Buc-ee's at this location with a 500-foot mast and revolving/illuminated Beaver mascot head." — **Rocky K. via Nextdoor comment**

TEMPE 'CASITA' TESTS NEIGHBORS WHO OPPOSE BUILDING'S HEIGHT

"I am concerned as well, don't want people looking into my yard every time they go out....we like our privacy." — **Joan Frauenfelder via Nextdoor comment**

"Joan, soon it will be we just need to check the inside of your living quarters, maybe a quick peek in the closet, open a few dresser drawers." — **Billie Walters via Nextdoor comment**

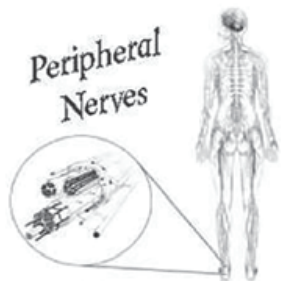
"But nobody can say anything if they decide to build a massive annoying and tall apartment complex in the neighborhood?! Let them build and stop being jealous of your neighbor." — **Lemac Carrillo via Nextdoor comment**

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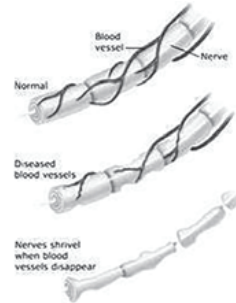
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

Mesa, AZ — The most common method your doctor will recommend to treat your chronic pain and/or neuropathy is with prescription drugs that may temporarily reduce your symptoms. These drugs have names such as Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, and Neurontin, and are primarily antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs. These drugs may cause you to feel uncomfortable and have a variety of

Chronic pain and/or peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves often causing weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and the most debilitating balance problems. This damage is commonly caused by a hands and feet which causes the nerves to begin to degenerate due to lack of nutrient flow.



As you can see in Figure 2, as the blood vessels that surround the nerves become diseased they shrivel up which causes the nerves to not get the nutrients to continue to survive. When these nerves begin to "die" they cause you to have balance problems, pain, numbness, tingling, burning, and many additional symptoms. The main problem is that your doctor has told you



to just live with the problem or try the drugs which you don't like taking because they make you feel uncomfortable. There is now a facility right here in Mesa that offers you hope without taking those endless drugs with serious side effects.

(See the special neuropathy severity examination at the end of this article) neuropathy three factors must be determined.

- 1) What is the underlying cause?
- 2) How much nerve damage has been sustained.
- 3) How much treatment will your condition require?

NOTE: Once you have sustained 95% nerve loss, there is likely nothing that we can do for you.

The treatment that is provided at Aspen Medical has three main goals.

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- 3) Decrease brain-based pain

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The amount of treatment needed to allow the nerves to fully recover varies from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation. As long as you have not sustained at least 95% nerve damage there is hope!

Aspen Medical will do a chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination to determine the extent of the nerve damage as a public service to you and/or your family and friends. This neuropathy/pain severity examination will consist of a detailed sensory evaluation, extensive peripheral vascular testing, and a detailed analysis of the findings of your neuropathy.



Aspen Medical will be offering this chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination from now until November 30, 2025. Call 480-796-1136 to make an appointment to determine if your chronic pain and peripheral neuropathy can be successfully treated.

Due to our busy office schedule, we are limiting this FREE consultation to the first 15 callers. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO SUFFER ANOTHER MINUTE, CALL. Call 480-796-1136 ... NOW!

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Fall brings series of wine festivals to Phoenix

With cooler temperatures, it's festival time in the Valley, particularly for those who like wine.

There are six upcoming wine festivals stretching from the Phoenix area up to Willcox in northern Arizona for those looking to partake in something off the vine, courtesy of Arizona Wine Events, Vermillion Productions and Willcox Wine Country.

The lineup is:

Nov. 1–2: Kierland Fine Art & Wine Fall Festival

Kierland Commons in Scottsdale will host this fall event that brings together Arizona wineries and nationally renowned artists in an upscale outdoor setting. It will include cooking demos from Sur La Table and live art exhibitions.

Nov. 8–9: WestWorld Art & Wine Experience

Held as part of the Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championships, this festival will feature fine art displays of 100 nationally juried artists, 20 Arizona wineries, live music performances, interactive art demonstrations, luxury lifestyle vendors and gourmet cuisine.

sine.

Nov. 21–23: The 16th Annual Sonoran Fine Art & Wine Festival

A three-day festival in Cave Creek will feature open-air shopping, fine wine tastings, patio dining, and live musical entertainment. Local and regional artists will showcase their work, and a variety of Arizona wineries will be in attendance for wine tasting.

Dec. 5–7: Wigwam Holiday Festival of the Arts

This three-day event at the historic Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park provides a weekend of art, entertainment, and festive cheer. Guests are invited to enjoy a glass of wine while strolling through the resort's holiday display.

Entry to each festival is free and early bird tickets for wine tasting — ranging from \$20 to \$35 per person — are on sale at www.willcoxwinecountry.org or www.vermillionpromotions.com. Tickets will be available day-of, ranging from \$30 to \$45 per person.

Tempe Zero Waste day on Nov. 1

Tempe Zero Waste day will be 7 a.m.–1 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Tempe Fire Training Center, 1340 E. University Drive.

Zero Waste Day events are held four times per year to help residents recycle items not permitted in garbage containers and blue recycling containers. All accepted items are recycled, repurposed or donated for reuse.

The events are open to all Tempe and Guadalupe residents who have bulk items, hazardous waste, electronics and more.

Proof of Tempe or Guadalupe residency is required. Accepted identification forms include a current driver's license, lease/rental agreement, mail with name and address, most recent Tempe water utility bill or student ID from educational institutions located within Tempe.

The last event hosted over 730 cars and over 68,000 pounds of waste were diverted from the landfill.

Accepted items include:

- Paper for shredding and household hazardous waste such as batteries, cleaning products, fluorescent lighting tubes, used oil, paints, soaps, etc.
- Styrofoam chunks like packing blocks, ice chests or other large pieces.
- Electronics and appliances like personal computers, laptops, monitors, cables and power cords all the way to larger items like washers/dryers, refrigerators, freezers, smoke detectors and more.

GO GREEN



Tempe and Guadalupe residents can recycle their Styrofoam at the House of Products Collection Center, 1320 E. University Drive. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

- Clothing, furniture, and household items in good condition are allowed.
- Bicycles and bike parts both new and used are accepted.
- Pet food and supply donations can be new or used.

Items not accepted include commercial or industrial products, hazardous waste, plastic bags and wraps, mattresses, car seats, bulk trash, small foam items (such as foam peanuts, cups, plates, take-out containers, or egg cartons), pet medications, and pets for surrender. Items delivered in trash bags will not be accepted for health and safety reasons.

Find a complete list of accepted items, drop-off procedures and detailed event information at <https://tempe.gov/ZeroWaste>.



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Vote on improvements in our community

Chandler will hold a Special Bond Election on Nov. 4

This election includes proposed bond funding for:

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Streets & Traffic

Police Department

The city projects NO increase to the property tax.

The estimated average tax rate for the proposed bond authorization is \$0.4795 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The new bonds are timed with retiring debt, which the city expects will keep the secondary property tax rate stable. These projects aim to improve daily life, ensure public safety and support Chandler's future growth.

Vote sobre los mejoramientos en nuestra comunidad

Chandler llevará a cabo una Elección Especial de Bonos el 4 de noviembre

Esta elección incluye la financiación propuesta de bonos para:

Parques y Recreación

Departamento de Bomberos

Calles y Tráfico

Departamento de Policía

La ciudad No proyecta aumento alguno a la tasa del impuesto sobre la propiedad.

La tasa promedio de impuestos estimada para la autorización de los bonos propuestos es de \$0.4795 por cada \$100 de avalúo tasado. Los nuevos bonos están sincronizados con la cancelación de la deuda, la cual la ciudad espera que mantenga estable la tasa secundaria del impuesto sobre la propiedad. Estos proyectos tienen como objetivo mejorar la vida diaria, asegurar la seguridad pública y apoyar el crecimiento futuro de Chandler.



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Van Horn Aviation focuses on the design, testing, certification and manufacturing of composite rotor blades for a range of helicopter models. (City of Mesa)

Hangar

- From page 6

reducing noise and pedal fatigue to increasing lift and speed,” according to the narrative.

“Two types of masonry are designed to resemble the abstract shape of a helicopter rotor blade, reflecting the work Van Horn Aviation specializes in. The steel structural elements are inspired by the struts and cables of a biplane, while the canopies and struts evoke the wings of an aircraft, including elements like spoilers and plates. The color variations on the pre-engineered metal building are de-

signed with a vaulted motif, meant to echo the look of historic hangars and to help soften the building’s large, industrial appearance,” it states.

The all-volunteer Mesa Design Review Board is unique in that its composition is set by the zoning ordinance to include two architects; two from other design professions such as landscape architecture, engineering, urban planning, interior design or other design-related background; one contractor or developer; and two residents, according to the city’s website.

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

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QR CODE



The city of Mesa owns 2.5 acres approximately 1,300 feet west of North Higley Road on the north side of East Falcon Drive. (City of Mesa)

Cards

• From page 19

the area near the future Cardinals' practice facility.

Desert Ridge Marketplace is just a mile west, where shops, restaurants and entertainment options are available. More shops and restaurants are located just south of the Loop 101 and Scottsdale Road.

There are also two hospitals in the area, Mayo Clinic as well as HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson within minutes of the planned facility.

The Cardinals will work with the city of Phoenix and the Arizona Commerce Authority to populate the remaining mixed-use area, with possibilities including corporate headquarters, restaurants, retail, medical facilities and residential spots, according to a release the team sent out Tuesday.

While State Farm Stadium in Glendale is known as the Cardinals' home to the public, the team spends less than 30 days a year there.

The stadium plays host to eight or nine regular season games most years – though occasionally a Cardinals "home" game could end up in Mexico City or Europe. One or two preseason games are at the stadium.

The 2025 Cardinals schedule features eight regular season and two preseason games in Glendale. Other than that, the franchise only spends time in Glendale during its summer training camp, which takes place for about two weeks at the stadium.

This year training camp, which includes the annual Red White scrimmage, was from July 24 to Aug. 6.

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

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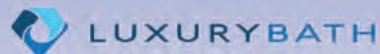
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LANDSCAPING

Church bringing in beautification project

By Madeline Bates

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The St. James Episcopal Church in Tempe is getting some green, but it is not changing its exterior.

The church at Warner and Rural roads is beginning a three-part landscape renovation project that will add 60 trees, shrubs and other elements to bring life to the area. It plans to bring in desert-friendly plants for birds, bees and churchgoers alike.

The current landscape is minimal, with few plants, rocks and gravel to cover what could be grass. But the highlight of the area is the labyrinth, or a rock formation in a circle that invites community members to meditate, pray or reflect outside.

Both Carol Paulk, the senior warden of the church, and The Rev. Anne K. Ellsworth discussed the meaning of the labyrinth and outdoor spaces and what it means for the community.

Ellsworth and other church officials plan on “welcoming everyone as they enjoy the peaceful surroundings and the beauty of God’s creation.”

The project is called the “Compostela,” honoring the city of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The plan includes 24 trees along Rural and Warner to offer shade for pedestrians and areas of the parking lot.

“With the time, talent, and treasure of the members of our church and surrounding community, our newly landscaped property will be an inviting oasis,” Paulk said in a statement.

The change comes after a much-needed replacement to the irrigation system and cooler weather conditions that allow for prime plant-



Rendering of “Compostela,” the new project at St. James Episcopal Church. (St. James Episcopal Church)

ing and water use in the desert.

Built in 1991, the church at 975 E. Warner Road has undergone light remodeling to both interior and exterior while keeping the original charm. The building’s north wing was added in a revision to the property and now hosts the Southwest Autism Awareness and Resource Center, a partner of St. James.

The garden will have wildflowers and native plants as well as bricks engraved with the names of sponsors for the project. So far, fundraising is only 20% complete, or around \$12,000.

The project is expected to be completed February 2026 and will be open to the public for meditation, prayer and reflection. Those looking to donate can go to <https://www.saintjamestemple.com/compostela-garden-project.html> or attend a service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday.

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

FROM THE COVER

Canoe

• From page 1

Move United, an international organization dedicated to helping all people be active through sport.

All three companies were present at the ceremonial blessing of one of the new outrigger canoes that was custom-built for the Ability 360 Outrigger team for more than \$26,000.

The event was noteworthy for athletes like Kaitlyn Verfuert, a Paralympian in tennis and canoe who competed in the Tokyo games in 2020. Now a coach and mentor for Ability 360's mountain biking and outrigger racing teams, she hopes to see more athletes find a place on the water.

"When you're in the boat, no one knows you have a disability, you're just like everyone else," said Ver-



People who gathered for the blessing of the adaptive canoe lift the boat to place it into the water following the blessing. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

fuerth.

The canoe is named Ho'oikaika or "perseverance" in the Native Hawaiian language and reflects the immense perseverance of the Ability 360 athletes and the competi-

tions yet to come.

The team has competed in Hawaii, California and Arizona with plans on going back to the island state to compete with the new equipment.

"Being able to create growth in our communities so that people with disabilities and without disabilities can compete together, it's really great to see the program grow," said Ability 360 Sports and Fitness vice president Gus LaZear.

The canoe was designed with inclusiveness in mind, featuring seats two inches lower than those of typical racing canoes. This design provides more stability, making it more inclusive for racers to get into the boat.

Leading the blessing was elder Kimokeo from Maui, Hawaii, who was happy to be back in Arizona after working with the Ability 360 team, Team AZ. Though this was not his first adaptive canoe blessing, he said this was particularly special.

"It's my greatest love to serve the adaptive sports community," Kimokeo said.

• See **Adaptive** on page 30

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Whitney

• From page 10

Because of this and the help Whitney received from librarians like Jill Brenner from the Tempe Public Library, she decided to dedicate the book to libraries as she was grateful for the help and attention she received.

In her role as Tempe Public Library's "Writer in Residence," she helped professionals of all kinds with the same tasks. From poets to playwrights and public speakers, Whitney teaches workshops on newsletters, writing about a setting and enjoys sharing her research tips with others.

"I have a huge appreciation for the function and of libraries," Whitney said. They appreciate her just as much.

The Writer in Residency program has been hosting local writers in public libraries since 2017. Tempe Librarian Jill Brenner knew Whitney from her frequent visits to the library and asked if she would be interested in the position.

"She was such a delight to work with," said Brenner. She also said that she was looking forward to reading the book after seeing the time and effort she put into it.

The University of Michigan Alumni Association added "A Tiny Piece of Blue" to its reading list saying that Whitney "brings verisimilitude to her depictions of rural life, with she ceaseless demands of the field and barn and small margins between success and failure," said Matt Benz, a contributor to the article.

Whitney received her master's degree from the university in 1971. She has been writing and in academic roles since then. She spent much of her career in an academic leadership role helping students with writing, reading, presenting and more.

She hopes to continue writing as she is working on another novel and hopes to teach more aspiring writers how to hone their craft as she as done.

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Adaptive

• From page 27

Since 2019, The Hartford has given more than 8,500 pieces of adaptive equipment to more than 75 communities nationwide.

“The cost of adaptive equipment is often a barrier to participation, with adaptive athletes paying approximately 15 times more for equipment than non-adaptive athletes. Supporting this work and witnessing its impact on athletes is what makes it so deeply rewarding,” said Monique Biggs, leader of the adaptive sports program at The Hartford Insurance Co.

The Hartford has been sponsoring athletes for over 30 years. Both Move United and The Hartford provide funding to local communities and help with the cost of new equipment.

Now, Ability 360 has two custom-built, six-person canoes that they can use for years to come.

“Everything’s beautiful about it and it’s now part of our family, which is really cool,” Verfuert said.

To learn more about the outrigger canoe, go to https://ability360.org/cal-events/outrigger_canoe/.

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

Elder Chief Kimokeo from Maui, Hawaii, blows through a conch shell during sunset on Oct. 14. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)



CANOE CLUB AT TEMPE TOWN LAKE

Team Arizona Outrigger Canoe Club, in partnership with Ability360, is making paddling accessible for everyone.

Practices are open to both competitive and recreational paddlers.

Contact Kaitlyn Verfuert at kaitlynv@ability360.org for information including the membership cost. You will be required to provide proof of membership upon arriving at your first session.

Practices are 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 7-9 a.m. Saturdays at the Tempe Town Lake North Boat Ramp on Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe.

Source: https://ability360.org/cal-events/outrigger_canoe/

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