



Sports

Honors for rare
East Valley
NBA champ; **16**



CHANDLER INDEPENDENT



Education

CUSD faculty get
2% raise again; **10**

March 2026 Volume 4 Issue 8

Your Nonpartisan Community Newspaper • YourValley.net

Council sends general plan, home-rule renewal to voters

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Chandler City Council has added two expected items to upcoming elections for voters to approve.

Council voted unanimously the week of Feb. 23 to add the items. Voter approval of the city's next 10-year general plan to the July 21 primary ballot, while voters will have the chance to add another four years to the city's home-rule option status by approving it in the Nov. 3 general election.

Council started the week with a work session Feb. 23 to discuss what's been titled "Chandler 2026 General Plan: Evolving the Chandler Way." That's the working title of the city's 10-year general plan, which residents and committees have had a hand in updating, helping to guide future development.

The last Chandler General Plan was adopted in April 2016 and was ratified by voters with 85.8% in favor in the Aug. 30, 2016 primary.

• See **Renewal** on page 18



E-bikes, e-nough?

Residents, others debate which
level of government should
regulate e-bikes

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

When Brook Beal stepped to the podium Feb. 26 to talk about e-bikes and other motorized vehicles using canal paths, he spoke on the same topic he's brought to the Chandler City Council many times over the past year and a half.

In June of last year, Beal was granted scheduled time before council, calling for more Chandler Police patrols along SRP canals. Council member Christine Ellis, after calling police leadership, asked police if it was their conclusion the canal trails are safe, with the response being "Yes."

Beal has been waging a sort of one-person battle to get motorized bikes off of SRP canal trails, insisting the risk of injury to riders and other trail users is high. He has spoken regularly on the subject since late 2024 at Council meetings and work sessions, pointing out last November that it was a month when, by his telling, a violent incident occurred in-

• See **E-Bikes** on page 12

Chandler Police Sgt. Jacob Grass displays the unit's e-bike in the summer of 2025. E-bikes have gained popularity for both government and private use. Recent pushes for cities and states to update regulations for training or use or to patrol places like canal trails haven't led to wholesale legislative changes yet. (Courtesy of Chandler Police Department)

RENOVATE
YOUR GATE

**YOUR GATE NEED
AN UPDATE?**

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

PAGE 7

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ON YOURVALLEY.NET

Chandler Cultural Foundation has a new board member

The Chandler Cultural Foundation has named Timothy Russell, Ph.D., to its Board of Directors following his appointment by Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke and approval by the board. Russell's experience is as a professor of music and director of orchestras at Arizona State University, a planned book on mindful music-making, almost 20 years conducting Ballet Arizona's collaborations with The Phoenix Symphony and two Grammy nominations. Read more at tinyurl.com/9wj698uw



Timothy Russell

Municipal Airport offering guided tours

The city of Chandler is offering the community free guided tours of Chandler Municipal Airport. Tours are offered one day each month, with three tour times available: 10:30–11:30 a.m., noon–1 p.m. and 2:30–3:30 p.m. Upcoming tour dates include Monday, March 23, Friday, April 24 and Monday, May 18.

Read more at tinyurl.com/2s3k-dxe7

City HR director has interim tag removed

Chandler City Manager John Pombier has announced the selection of Kristin Maier as Human Resources Director, bringing 26 years of human resources experience to the position. Maier has worked for the city since 2019, and has served as the city's acting human resources director since September of last year. Read more at tinyurl.com/mvmc7jfw

Chandler council ponders written annual evaluations of officials

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Chandler City Council is discussing a new way to evaluate the four employees directly hired by the council.

Kristin Maier, Chandler's Human Resources acting director, outlined possible elements of a new annual evaluation process for the city's manager, attorney, city clerk and magistrate — the only four positions council appoints directly — during a Jan. 22 work session.

Driven publicly by Councilmember O.D. Harris, starting last year around the time of his public criticism of now-former City Manager Josh Wright, the process would allow council to use forms it helps design to more formally evaluate the four appointed city officer positions.

All seven council members would write out their annual evaluations individually of each of the four officers. Maier presented two options: A single form for all four, versus different forms tailored to each position.

The 40-minute work session ended with Mayor Kevin Hartke saying



Chandler City Council member Christine Ellis speaks during a recent meeting. Council asked staff to put together data and ideas around a formal written annual evaluation process for its four appointed officials for a Jan. 22 work session; staff will return to Council at an upcoming work session with modified proposals. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

there was a consensus to have Maier return for a future work session after her department crafts some changes into the options, though the mayor said he doesn't want to move forward with either plan.

Harris said he believes the city's mantra of making pay for the four positions and directors needs to be rethought. Rather than look at state and Valley averages and what simi-

lar-size municipalities are paying, Harris said he wants to see a more merit-based system for determining raises for Chandler appointed officials.

"I think our system needs improvement," Harris said. "I would like to see a simple form with a series of the same question: Did the official

• See **Evaluations** on page 9

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Council OKs new citywide fee schedule

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A lengthy discussion led up to the Chandler City Council's most recent approval of citywide fee increases.

And, just as when Council approved a similar sweeping fee increase a little more than a year ago, it wasn't a unanimous vote.

Council approved a public works

fee schedule with some increases in it unanimously at its Feb. 26 meeting. But since community services, police and cultural development department fees were voted upon as a separate motion, that only passed by a 5-2 margin.

Mayor Kevin Hartke and Council

• See **Fee Schedule** on page 9



Chandler City Council member Matt Orlando speaks at a recent meeting. Council voted, 5-2 on Feb. 26 to approve a new citywide fee schedule for three departments that were to go into effect March 2. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

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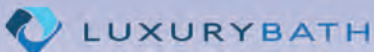
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Senior Expo draws crowd to Sun Lakes

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Seniors and families from several East Valley communities came to Sun Lakes Country Club on Feb. 24 for Independent Newsmedia's Senior Expo.

The free event included a variety of businesses with information on health care and wellness, home improvement, financial services, insurance, retirement living and other helpful products and services, with a vendor booked for nearly every spot.

Mike Pickard of Accurate Air Conditioning said he enjoys attending events on this type.

"We've been around a while as a business, but it's great to get in front of more people," Pickard said. "One benefit is we get people thinking preventively about air-conditioner maintenance."

In the weeks and months ahead, INI's Senior Expos shift to the West Valley. The Peoria event is March 26, followed by one in Sun City West on April 22 and in Sun City on May 4.



Above, Mike Pickard, left, of Accurate Air Conditioning, visits at the Desert Financial Credit Union table Feb. 24 during Independent Newsmedia's Senior Expo at the Sun Lakes Country Club. Visitors learned about dozens of products and services that appeal to seniors. Below left are Carol Royce and her daughter Vikki Royce Middlebrook. Below, Pattie Poe, left, and Stephen Phair of Edward Jones speak with a visitor. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)



BUSINESS

State women's group annual leader is from Chandler

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The International Women's Forum Arizona has announced its 2026 board of directors — and this year's chair is from Chandler.

The nonprofit is a group of local professionals committed to helping unite a global community of women leaders and elevate women's leadership in the present and future.

JoAnn Holland, who represents three Valley groups in the forum, is from Chandler. She is this year's chair of the board of directors.

The board members hold a one-year term, concluding on Dec. 31.

One of the "communications co-chairs" who's on the board, Hershey Khan, represents Ignite AI.

IWF Arizona will launch a new initiative this fall called "Leadership Fellows Program: Women Opening Doors to Women." That's designed to cultivate the next generation of women leaders through training, mentorship and networking.

Learn more about International Women's Forum Arizona at iwfaz.org.



The International Women's Forum Arizona has announced its 2026 board of directors. In front, from the left, are Adelaida Severson, JoAnn Holland and Hershey Khan. Holland and Khan have Chandler ties. In back are Shannon Clancy, Mary Mitchell, Lisa Hartsock, Carey Chambers, Heather Rausch, Mindy Weinstein, Lauren Chazal and Vanecia Kerr. (Courtesy of Market Mind Shift)

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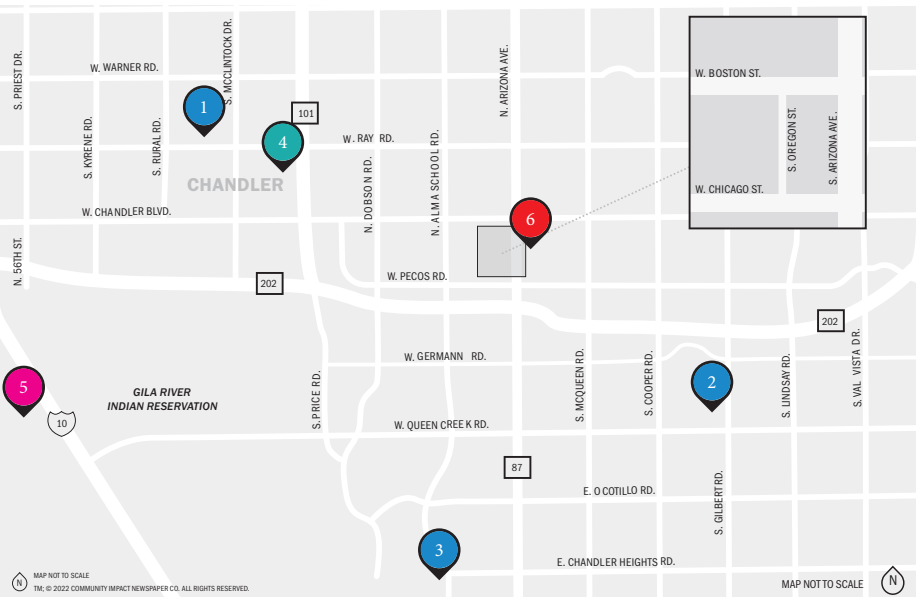


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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Jason Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

NOW OPEN

1 Yo Pauly's opened a second location Feb. 7 to complement its Scottsdale store. The pizza shop opened its location in west Chandler at 4040 W. Ray Road, No. 13, at McClintock Drive. Pies, slices, pasta, sandwiches, Stromboli, calzones and wings and garlic knots are all available. Learn more at yopaulysnypc.com or by calling 480-867-1000.

2 Ryan's Pet Supplies is a distribution service for animals and animal professionals that has moved from a central Phoenix location to an industrial complex at 2650 S. Gilbert Road, Suite 1-1, between Germann and Queen Creek roads. The showroom is open Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the main phone line, 1-800-525-7387, takes calls weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn more or order supplies online at ryanspet.com.

3 Thiru Kuppusamy has opened on the southeast corner of Alma School and Chandler Heights in south Chandler. It's the sixth U.S. location for a chain of South Indian cuisine places that got its start in India more than 60 years ago. There are several chicken, mutton and vegetarian main dishes, including paneers, curries, masala and Madurai. The hours are geared toward lunch and dinner every day except Tuesdays. Learn more at thirukuppusamy.com or on Instagram: @tku_chandleraz

NEW HIRES

4 Baird, an international wealth management, asset management, investment banking/capital markets and private equity firm, announced that The Cowans Mitchell Group has joined the firm at a new office opening in Chandler, located at 3100 W. Ray Road. The Cowans Mitchell Group joins Baird from Edelman Financial Engines and includes Jason Cowans, who joins as director and financial ad-

visor; Wilson Mitchell, who joins as vice president and financial advisor and Carmen Vander Wal, who joins as client assistant.

AWARD

5 Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass recently earned national recognition from Forbes Travel Guide The publication, which uses a global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, spas and cruise ships, has announced the 2026 Star Awards. KAI, the Native American-influenced fine-dining restaurant at Sheraton Grand, was recognized among just 82 Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star restaurants worldwide. Aji Spa was also honored with the Forbes Five-Star Award for the seventh time.

COMING SOON

6 The AJ is set to be opened in downtown Chandler later this year by Greenwood Brewing, which is a local woman-owned craft brewery with a location in downtown Phoenix. The AJ will be part of a park-adjacent mixed-use destination at 55 N. Arizona Place, located on the east side of Arizona Avenue, just north of Commonwealth Avenue and Dr. A.J. Chandler Park. Founded by Megan Greenwood, Greenwood Brewing has grown from a garage home brewing passion project in a few years. The Chandler taproom will be part of a new space that will feature Greenwood's signature indoor-outdoor design, a curated beer and wine program and light food designed for enjoying in nearby parks. Renderings are to be released soon.



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THE AJ

Evaluations

• From page 4

hit each goal we set out for them — yes or no. If no, the narrative part can be used for comments. And then we meet (as a council) and vote on whether they met goals, and tell them, collectively, here's how we voted."

Harris said regarding court rulings around executive-session paperwork, "We might have to re-litigate that," saying he believes the four officers are employees the same as any others in the city.

Harris and Councilmember Jane Poston acknowledged any written evaluation — especially criticism — should be written out clearly, thoughtfully and constructively.

Councilmember Christine Ellis said she believes it would be a lot of typing for her and the mayor and other council members, but having the four officers conducting

self-evaluations doesn't sound like a way to go, either.

"Will they be self-writing these evaluations, or will all seven council members write on all four officers?" Ellis said. "Because I'm telling you, (self-writing) is not gonna happen with me."

Councilmember Angel Encinas said he believes a written narrative evaluation could be a useful tool in what's likely to remain a structured, formal annual evaluation process.

Councilmember Jennifer Hawkins said she believes a written component would be helpful — especially if priorities change from year to year and one of the officers has been instructed to follow a different direction.

Hartke said he's concerned such written evaluations could be "record-search material."

City Attorney Kelly Schwab said the city of Scottsdale lost a court case decades ago in which written evaluations of officers were created only for use in executive sessions, with a judge

ruling those evaluations are public records.

The city's current annual evaluations of its four council-appointed officers have, for years, been held in executive sessions with no public records available on those verbal discussions.

Council also meet quarterly with all four officers to go over goals. Council members meet with City Manager John Pombier every two weeks, one-on-one, to go over an array of current and ongoing events; Mayor Hartke and Pombier meet weekly.

Poston said there could be seven completely different opinions written about each of the four officers. But she said it would be good if the way each council member is interacting with the four officers, especially around goal completion, should be uniform.

Councilmember Matt Orlando said a numeric, rating-based system was used by the city for officers for about a seven-year period in the early

2000s. He said he would be in favor of a return to some typed of evaluations.

Maier and Pombier both said the city, as well as throughout government and much of the private sector, is moving away from any sort of numbers-based rating or ranking in employee evaluations, as an industry best practice.

Pombier said the city of Mesa, where he spent much of his career, had regular one-on-one meetings involving the four officers meant to be "frank and goal-focused," but those weren't documented.

A supplement to Maier's presentation shows that among comparable Valley municipalities, only Gilbert — with its "360-degree evaluation by direct reports" — along with the formal evaluation forms used in Goodyear, Tempe and Peoria are exceptions to the verbal-executive feedback method used by many Valley cities.

Fee Schedule

• From page 4

member Christine Ellis voted against the motion, which will make no changes to city resident fees, where applicable.

All four categories of new fees go into effect March 2.

"I've been out at soccer fields recently, and I was asked about the sta-

tus of this, as the fields are getting beat up by the amount of play," Hartke said. "I don't see this as taxes. We're just asking people to pay for services, and they can opt in, or opt out."

Ellis said city residents have been educated on how the cost of everything from staffing to facility maintenance to new services and features have all risen.

"We've been working on this," she

said. "We understand that this is inflation time and everybody has to pay a little more."

Budget Director Matt Dunbar, whose presentation kicked off the discussion, included and described a slide that defines taxes versus fees in more than 10 different ways.

In a December 2024 vote, postponed for a month after a lengthy November discussion led by Council

member O.D. Harris about resident versus non-resident fees, Council approved a 2025 fee schedule by a 5-2 vote then, too.

Harris and then-Council member Mark Stewart, who frequently used a colloquial, personal definition of fees as taxes in meetings, were the two "no" votes on that December 2024 proposal that went into effect in early 2025.



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EDUCATION



Kerri Williams, one of the co-chairs of the 2026 Citizen Advisory Budget Committee, reads a summary of compensation requests at the Feb. 25 Chandler Unified Governing Board regular meeting. The board unanimously approved a 2026-27 compensation package that includes a base 2% increase to salaries for most of the district's employees. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

Chandler school board OKs 2% raises again

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Despite announcing major staffing cuts last month, the Chandler Unified School District has determined those employees remaining will get a commonly implemented raise in the next school year.

The CUSD Governing Board unanimously approved a compensation package at its Feb. 25 regular meeting.

An executive session tied to the regular-meeting agenda vote was held the afternoon of Feb. 25, with the district's finance and human resources directors presenting

• See **Raises** on page 20

Automotive opens Chandler students' career options

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Either in everyday driving or in talking with auto mechanics, it's easy to think modern vehicles are almost all computers.

While automation and chip-bearing and digital components are certainly more visible than they were in decades past, basic automotive skills are still important.

D.J. Vander Walk, a Chandler High senior, said the things he's learned in his school's automotive program are going to help him in areas that don't necessarily involve working on cars.

"A lot of what we learn is not even related to cars themselves," Vander Walk said. "I've learned so much about how to fill out applications and other soft skills than I have in any other class. Part of our grading is on employability, like, for example, time management in the shop."

Vander Walk is part of Chandler Unified's career and technical education automotive program. The



Chandler High School senior Blake Speer, left, and an automotive classmate prepare to work on a driver's side wheel area during a recent class. Automotive is a three-year career and technical education program in the Chandler Unified district, offered only at Chandler High.

Chandler High School site is where students in the three-year program hone a variety of skills, ranging from changing fluids to diagnosing engine programs.

The first year for the program, which has no prerequisites, involves basics on how vehicles function and

the tools used for common maintenance and repairs.

The second year is more detail about auto parts and systems and the adjustments and repairs that keep vehicles on the road.

• See **Automotive** on page 11

IMPROVEMENTS

CUSD: 5 schools get new bond-funded flooring

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Chandler Unified Governing Board finally has some room to make what district administration says are needed upgrades and facility improvements.

Three of the items the board approved at its Feb. 25 regular meeting were flooring replacement contracts for five of its 43 schools.

The roughly \$1.5 million for the three contracts will come from the district's \$271.5 million bond that voters narrowly approved last November.

• See **Flooring** on page 20



Five Chandler Unified campuses — including Payne Junior High School, shown here — will have aging flooring replaced in the months ahead after the CUSD Governing Board approved \$1.5 million in bond-funded contracts at its Feb. 25 meeting. (Courtesy of Chandler USD)

Automotive

• From page 10

The third year is focused on which modifications can be made to each type of vehicle and best practices.

Teacher Roger Van Why said at the end of the third year, students have the opportunity to take a test and become National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence-certified — an important industry standard.

Van Why said while most instructors like himself have accepted that computers are essential components of vehicles and shops, it's the diagnostic equipment that gets out-of-sync with cars now.

Some diagnostic equipment that's nearly 10 years old in 2026 might not be compatible with the latest makes and models, Van Why said.

The teacher said tool safety and proper security — for example, making sure everything is locked up at the



Chandler High School automotive teacher Roger Van Why turns on systems at the start of a class shop session. Automotive is a three-year career and technical education program in the Chandler Unified district, offered only at Chandler High. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

end of the day — are essential. So is keeping students apprised of tasks or jobs they aren't permitted to com-

plete, such as procedures that require advanced certificates or any type of body work.

While he accepts the types of students who take automotive, there is still an essential lecture component to the classes.

"We have to have some theory," Van Why said. "Kids have to know what they're looking at and how things work."

Vander Walk, a Wolves varsity baseball player, said Van Why is great at coordinating with students in sports or other afterschool commitments.

The senior and third-year automotive student plans to enter Mesa Community College's welding program, having learned some welding basics in the Chandler High automotive program.

Vander Walk has passed both the ASE entry-level technician exam and a district "program completer" test.

"Mr. Van Why's main thing is not necessarily to make us into mechanics, but into people that know how to work on cars," Vander Walk said.



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FROM THE COVER

E-Bikes

• From page 1

volving a motorized vehicle on a trail.

“So to answer Ms. Ellis’ question now, in November, the answer would be, ‘no, not necessarily,’” Beal said.

The bikes aren’t cheap. Global Bikes, an East Valley bike shop with multiple locations, sells a Gazelle Eclipse C380-plus High city touring e-bike for a listed price of \$6,400.

Still, e-bikes and other motorized scooters, mopeds and electric scooter remain popular in the Valley. The Mesa City Council approved an ordinance in January that permits Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes, electric standup scooters and electric miniature scooters to operate within city parks, provided riders don’t exceed 5 miles per hour.

Gilbert Police reported a troubling shift in accident data. For the first time in 2024, juveniles were involved in more bike-vehicle collisions than adults, and attributed much of the trend to the popularity and speed of e-bikes.

Gilbert Police said there are concerns about electric motorcycles and several other classes of fast-moving two- or three-wheeled devices — not only in collisions, but also as an expensive gadget that becomes either a getaway vehicle or an object of crime itself.



Chandler Police Department officer Stephen Barnes and Sgt. Jacob Grass display their unit's e-bikes in the summer of 2025. E-bikes have gained popularity for both government and private use. Recent pushes for cities and states to update regulations for training or use or to patrol places like canal trails haven't led to wholesale legislative changes yet. (Courtesy of Chandler Police Department)

SRP canals

In many Valley cities, issues around e-bikes have less to do with parks or even busy streets, but the ditch and canal banks and trails where motorized vehicles aren't permitted.

On March 3, an 18-year-old man and a 14-year-old boy were charged with several crimes after police say they stopped a victim — a 12-year-old boy — near a Salt River Project canal trail area east of Greenfield Junior High School and took his e-bike at gunpoint Feb. 6.

The Salt River Project doesn't

specifically attempt to bar use of powered vehicles on its canal paths on its website, but highly discourages it and defers to local signs.

Under a list that's introduced with “Canals can be very dangerous, so please follow these canal safety tips to avoid drowning or injury,” there's an item that reads “Don't drive motorized vehicles, including electric bikes and scooters, on the canal banks.”

Patty Likens, spokesperson for SRP, said the utility is “responsible for the operation and maintenance of property owned by the United

States.”

As part of that responsibility, Likens said, SRP must ensure federal Salt River Reclamation Project properties, such as the 131 miles of canals SRP manages. Those canals and adjacent access roads must remain open and accessible for the continued operation and maintenance of SRP power and irrigation facilities, she said.

“Federal regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles, including e-bikes along Salt River Reclamation Project property,” she said.

She said she's not aware of any SRP disagreements over canal-area jurisdiction as the canal banks are federal land. SRP has agreements on file with each municipality for both special events, such as the annual City of Chandler Bike Ride, along with agreements to make utility adjustments, such as installing, removing or maintaining power lines.

Likens said despite Mesa's recent change, she's not aware of any proposals to either allow or further discourage or prevent e-bikes from being on canal paths.

“We are not aware of the federal government having any proposed changes in the works to the prohibition on motorized vehicles,” Likens said.

Chandler's current code — which

• See **E-Bikes** on page 19



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OPINION

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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.

Disappointed by Chandler Airport Day procedures

I was very disappointed at the (Jan. 24 open-house) Chandler Airport event.

There was no police directing traffic and it would have taken me about 45 minutes to get to the parking lot.

I saw an elderly couple on walkers trying to enter at the exhibitors entrance. The event started 29 minutes before so the exhibitors should have already been in a long time ago. They were turned away.

I had my twin toddlers with me. After being in traffic for 20 minutes. I finally got to a side street and was able to exit.

I ended up taking the kids to a park after promising them the airport.

Signs need to be better.

Andrea Christ
Chandler

Shining a light on the high cost of health insurance

I'm glad that the president used a part of his State Of The Union address to talk about something that I think can bring the country together, and that is the high cost of health insurance.

Insurance companies have been driving up copays, deductibles and premiums for decades, while their middlemen tighten their grip on what we pay for prescriptions.

How is that fair for patients? Shouldn't the goal of these companies be to improve access to quality care for Americans?

Congress is already taking notice of this. Congressman David Schweikert recently joined his committee members in grilling insurance companies on some of their shady practices.

That's a great first step, but it

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will take a larger team effort to rein in big insurers to improve American health.

Let's start with increasing transparency in the drug supply chain and making sure these pharmacy benefit managers are passing along discounts meant for patients.

Those savings should help people afford their medications. They also need to investigate why insurance companies deny simple coverages and make patients jump through hoops and multiple appeals to get covered for a procedure.

Enough is enough, and I truly hope that the message gets through to our leaders in Washington.

Emily Stonebrook
Chandler

Senior to Arizona lawmakers: Continue mail-in voting

I am almost 88 and have voted almost as many years I could (except when my husband hid my ballot).

Please continue the voting by mail. I am unable to stand in line or drive up and drop my ballot somewhere.

If you discontinue the voting by mail, you will lose many seniors votes.

Dosha Davidson
Chandler

Why the rush to rename Loop 202 after Charlie Kirk?

In response to state Sen. Warren Petersen's opinion, Why the bill

• See **Opinions** on page 15

SPEAK UP

Here are some recent online comments about Chandler Independent items:

"GAS PRICES UP 11 CENTS OVER PREVIOUS WEEK":

"I don't drive that much and I use my higher-mileage vehicle. If a tank of gas cost me \$40 instead of \$35 I don't care, I will still drive where I want. Another refinery is closing in Cali in April and the summer 'cocktail CBG' fuel blend kicks in May 1st. It will be \$4 this summer."

— **Warren Bowman** via story comment

"CHANDLER REPUBLICAN SEEKS TO CRIMINALIZE EXCESSIVE MARIJUANA SMOKE, ODOR":

"Though I personally don't partake, I think one of J.D.'s neighbors needs to share their stash with him so he'll chill out."

— **Dan B.** via story comment

"We have more pressing issues than worrying about marijuana smoke."

— **Yasi P.** via story comment

"Hopefully, this isn't them trying to chip away at cannabis legalization laws."

— **Mark Long** via story comment

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

OPINION

Opinions

• From page 14

renaming Loop 202 for Charlie Kirk must become law:

Why the rush? The state should follow the standard required process for naming a public highway, etc. in honor of someone.

It's my understanding a person needs to have been deceased for five years before being considered for this honor. If Charlie is remembered five years from now, that's the time to consider this.

However, I disagree with naming anything after him using his support of free speech as justification — he also supported ultra conservative positions including religion, and I believe did not support freedom of religion.

Nancy Nixon
Sun City

High school student-athletes mentor younger Chandler peers

CHANDLER UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

Chandler Unified School District athletics recently hosted a leadership seminar for about 100 student-athletes from each of the district's junior high and middle schools.

The event was built to inspire, educate, and empower young leaders for life both on and off the field.

The younger students heard from a panel of juniors and seniors representing all six CUSD high schools.

These mentors — many of whom have already signed letters of intent or received collegiate offers — answered candid questions about the realities of high-level competition.

The two main topics were titled: "The Balancing Act: Practical strategies for managing the dual roles of student and athlete" and "Under Pressure: Healthy ways to navigate expectations from family and the heat of competition."



Chandler Unified School District athletics recently hosted a leadership seminar for about 100 student-athletes from each of the district's junior high and middle schools. The younger students heard from a panel of juniors and seniors representing all six CUSD high schools. (Courtesy of Chandler USD)

The high-schoolers offered a "playbook" for success, urging their younger peers to stay true to themselves, develop disciplined routines and lean on teammates for support.

Junior high athletic directors also engaged the high school athletes with questions about preparing for big games and tournaments. The older students shared strategies they have learned through experience — tools the younger athletes can immediately apply in their own sports journeys.

The seminar also featured a talk from Ashley Rodarte, a Perry High alumna and incoming head badminton coach. Currently pursuing a master's at Arizona State University, Rodarte shared a compelling "flashlight" analogy for mental performance: whatever one points the mind toward, becomes the reality.

By focusing on growth rather than self-doubt, athletes can fundamentally change their performance, Rodarte said.



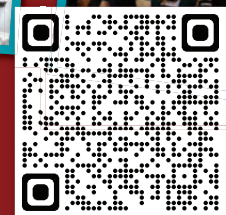
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Enrollment Open!

Chandler district athlete, world champ

Jalen Williams honored

By Jason W. Brooks

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Jalen Williams said he never thought his dream would come true.

"I never thought I'd be standing up here, talking about a world championship," Williams said during an emotional Feb. 10 ceremony at Perry High School to honor the alum and NBA champion.

Williams, a 2019 graduate of PHS, went on to play college basketball at Santa Clara. Drafted in 2022, he helped a talented Oklahoma City Thunder team bring that city its first major pro sports title by winning the 2025 NBA Finals last June.

On hand for the music-accompanied walkout, short speeches and unveiling of a banner on a new Perry "wall of honor" in Dan Serrano Gymnasium were school leaders and Williams' coach, former Pumas coach Sam Duane Jr.

"Jalen was only about 6 feet tall as a sophomore, and I remember the



Jalen Williams speaks during an event held in his honor in Dan Serrano Gymnasium on Feb. 10 at his alma mater, Perry High School. Williams helped lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to an NBA title last June. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

day he pointed out that he's taller than me," Duane Jr. said.

The coach told stories about some of the games from which highlights were extracted for a video shown in the gym for the capacity crowd. He praised Williams' ability to not only

not be denied on offense, but also to play "lock-down" defense.

Williams thanked a long list of people, from the Perry athletic trainer; Puma fans and his family. That includes his parents, Ron and Nicole; his sister, Jasmin, and his brother,



Perry High School Principal Heather Patterson, left, and PHS athletic director Jennifer Burks, right, flank former Puma basketball star Jalen Williams in Dan Serrano Gymnasium on Feb. 10 as part of an event held in Williams' honor. Williams helped lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to an NBA title last June. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

Cody, who plays for the Utah Jazz.

The event was arranged partly because the Thunder were in the Valley, on a night off, a day ahead of their 136-109 win over the host Phoenix Suns. Williams, who had recently come back from an injury, had 28 points in that game of 11-of-12 shooting.

FOOTBALL

Longtime Chandler football coach returns to Calif. alma mater



Rick Garretson

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The alma mater of a former Chandler High School football coach has announced he's taking over its program.

Servite High School in Anaheim, California, has announced the hiring of Rick Garretson as the Friars' next head football coach.

Garretson, a 1974 graduate of Servite, brings with him nearly 40 years of experience to the Friars, having dedicated the majority of his adult life to coaching.

Those years include being a nine-year assistant and later head coach of the Chandler Wolves. As CHS's head coach from 2019 to 2024, he furthered the school's long legacy, leading the Wolves to Open Division titles in 2019 and 2020.

The Wolves won 46 consecutive games from 2018-21.

Chandler High won four big-schools classification crowns and two ESPN Geico Bowl titles in the nine years Garretson was an assistant. Joining the staff in 2010, he coached

the wide receivers, quarterbacks and was the offensive coordinator at various times.

Servite athletic director Matt Marrujo, himself an SHS alum, said Garretson's deep understanding of the school's and Friars' missions are probably part of why he decided to head a program at about age 70.

"As an alumnus, former teacher, and coach, Coach Garretson understands the vital role coaches play in forming faith-filled leaders," Marrujo



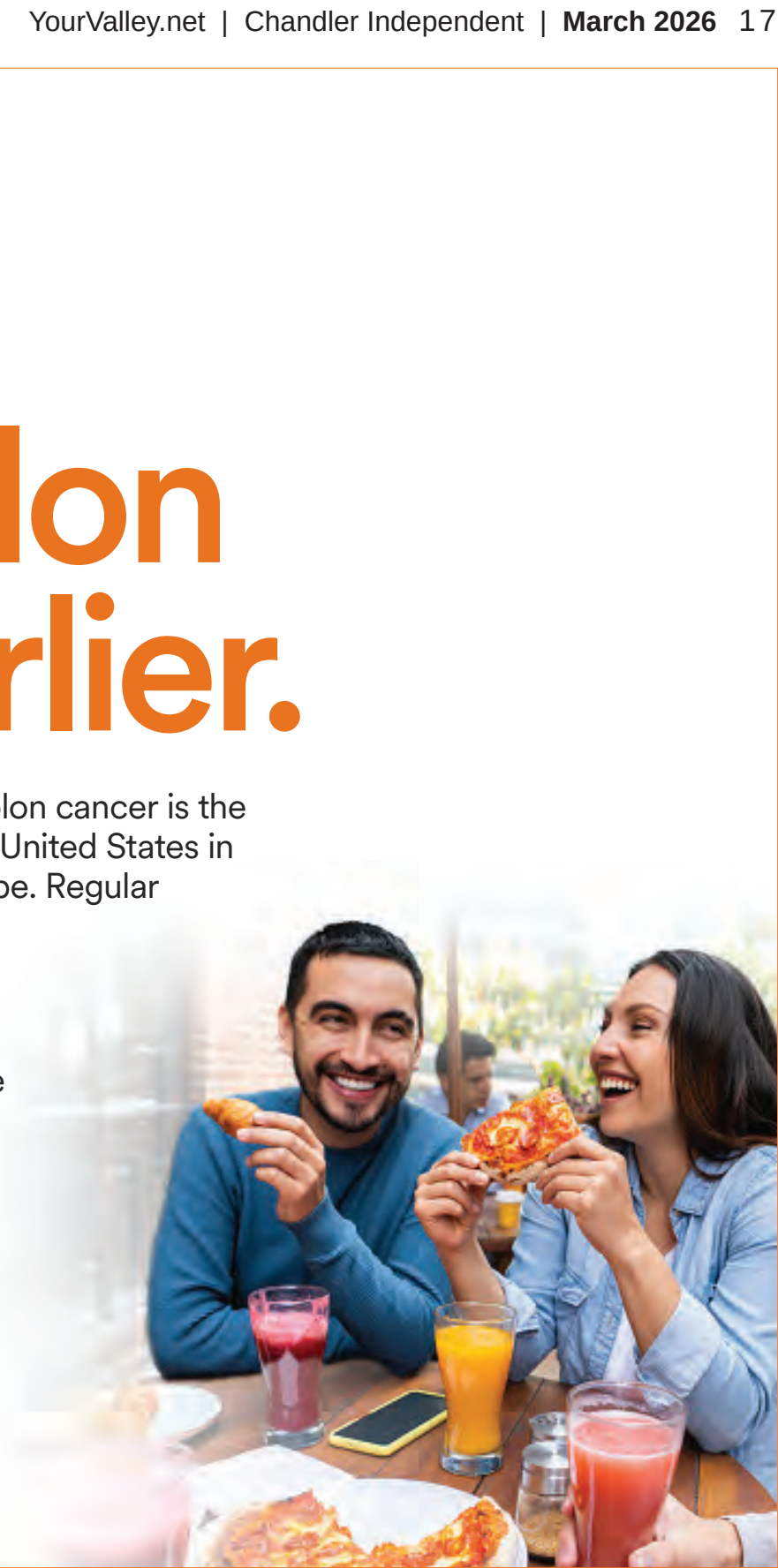
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FROM THE COVER

Renewal

• From page 1

The recent work session was followed by a special meeting with public hearings scheduled on both the general plan and on a renewal election on the city's home-rule status.

Planner Lauren Schumann went over some of the more heavily changed elements — relative to the 2016 general plan — and the steps and cycle and priorities associated with the 2026 version in the work session.

Land use is a main component of the general plan. The plan includes a future land use map with four identified growth areas.

In the work session, Mayor Kevin Hartke asked Schumann if staff guided any conversations or accounted for pending 2026 state legislation that might restrict what types of particular restrictions or architectural standards Chandler and other cities can put into general plans.

Schumann said she wasn't aware of any such proposed legislation. Hartke said he is aware of such proposals, though those might not become law this year.

Planning Administrator Kevin Mayo advised that planned area development approval processes, or PADs, are a way to mitigate the effects of new state laws that affect architectural requirements or provisions.

Council member O.D. Harris asked if some type of "footnote" could be added to the general plan to indicate that the Kyrene School District is closing a middle school and a K-8 academy this summer, with other districts in the area likely to ponder such a move in the years ahead.

He's concerned about redevelopment of those school sites for much different purposes in the future.

Hartke and Schumann both assured Harris that the general plan and city zoning already have short lists of what could be brought into a neighborhood, such as a churches, other types of educational facilities or offices.

Also, City Manager John Pombier said, city staff talk regularly with Kyrene, Mesa and Chandler Unified school district leaders about facilities plans, and would immediately reach out to neighborhood residents if there were ever a city or developer proposal to significantly change the use of a former school building site.

Schumann also walked council through changes to the general plan for the Price Road Tech Corridor and a new provision that will allow employers and potential employers to build multi-story employee housing on-site as part of a campus that's vertical, with first-floor commercial uses in residential towers.

Pombier said walkability and the ability to live at or very near employment is something potential employers tell cities that they can't find.

Schumann emphasized that all such proposals — even by Wells Fargo, which is already permitted to build two nine-story buildings on land that its main office building occupies — would have to go through a developmental approval process, where staff and Council and, in many cases, the planning commission can impose many stipulations.

Council member Matt Orlando said he has concerns about developers getting approval for such mixed-use campuses and later deciding to

not build out or staff the employment sides of the projects, therefore negating the economic benefits of the zoning.

Mayo and the mayor both pointed out that the PAD permitting process will mandate that there be functional non-residential components to the plans as a permit condition.

Harris expressed concerns about not having more stops in place to ensure compliance with the non-residential uses.

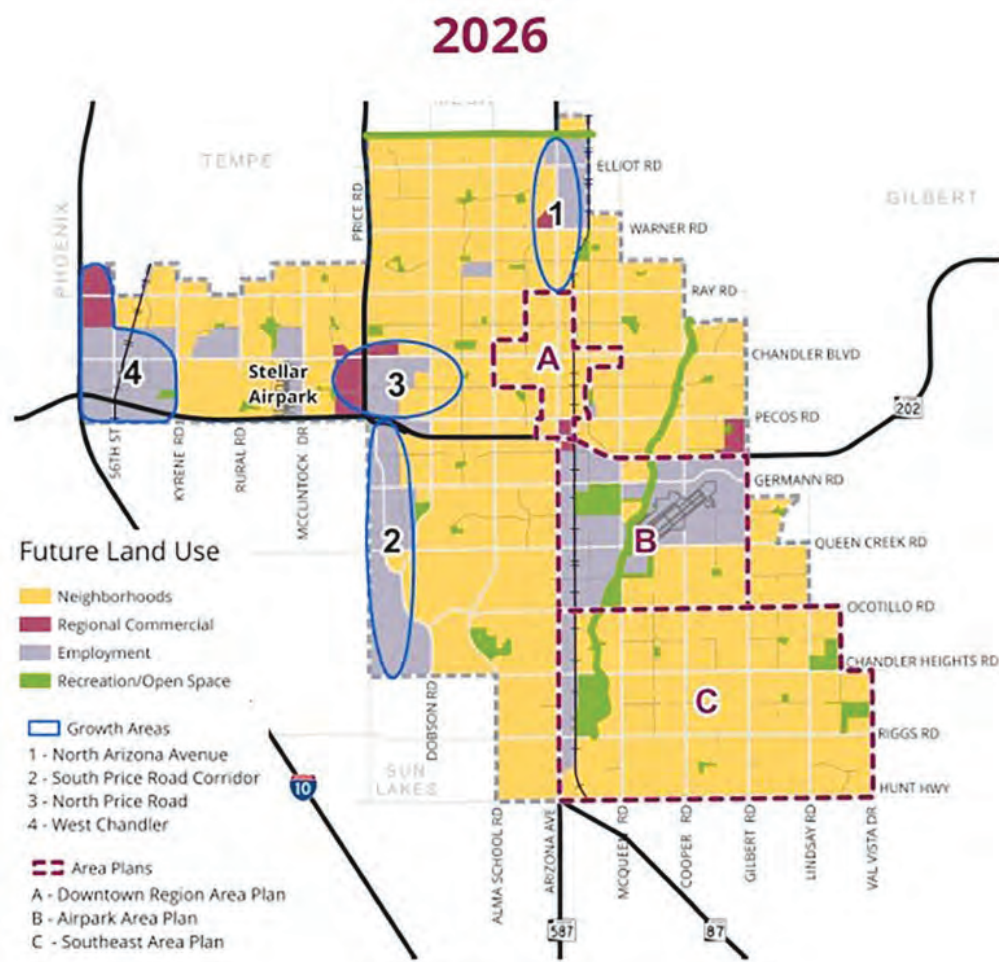
Pombier said he understood Harris and Orlando were merely watching out for ways developers might try to

game the system, but ended the conversation by reminding them Council has the final review and vote on major developments.

"At the end of the day, they still have to come to you guys," Pombier told the Council.

Mayo read additions to the policy requiring "ancillary" employee residential uses "subordinate to the primary employment use," which Orlando and Harris seemed to appreciate.

The vertical Price Road provision



The Chandler City Council placed two items on this year's election ballots during February meetings, including its 10-year General Plan, which has this future land use map and many other new provisions. (Courtesy of city of Chandler)

FROM THE COVER

E-Bikes

• From page 12

is not under any publicized review or proposal for changes — calls for no motorized bikes “in any city parking structure or park, except for use on public roadways within a park, designated hike/bike trails or designated city parking for stand-up electric mini-scooters or shared mobility devices.”

Such bikes also have a 35 mph speed limit on four-or-more-lanes streets without a bicycle lane and are not to be operated in Chandler by any child younger than 13.

City vs. state regulation

Arizona has a patchwork quilt of city, town, county and a smattering of state law restrictions on e-bikes.

Marc Lamber, a trial attorney and personal injury group chair, recently wrote an opinion piece that urged state lawmakers to take up e-bike safety, saying it's not best

handled by cities; the only way to consolidate so many local restrictions is to codify rules at the state level.

Rick Murray, president of the Arizona Chapter of the National Safety Council, agrees, though he sees a patchwork quilt when it comes to educate parents and the general public about e-bikes.

“Our organization believes in education and other training for drivers, and our programming reflects that,” Murray said. “We think states could require training.”

Murray said training wouldn't have to be a government or private responsibility alone, as nonprofits could contribute, too.

Murray pointed out that Class 3 e-bikes, which can go as fast as 28 mph and are regulated differently by a handful of Arizona jurisdictions, probably require the most training to handle.

“My kids are grown now, but if they were teens or pre-teens, I'd be terrified of these things,” Murray said of the fastest e-bikes.

Renewal

• From page 18

also uses the general plan's new city definition of “urban” residential zoning, which will be 26 or more dwelling units per acre.

Council voted unanimously the night of Feb. 23 to put the general plan on the July 21 primary ballot. That turned out to be the last day Maricopa County Elections accepted ballot language for that election.

The city missed the window to have home-rule renewal on the primary ballot, as home-rule requires two public hearings at regular meetings, held Feb. 23 and 26. Gov. Katie Hobbs signed the primary

election date rescheduling into law Feb. 6, after Chandler had already held its Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 meetings.

Council voted unanimously Feb. 26 to place home rule on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The city must renew its home-rule option — a complex designation that involves flexibility on spending — every four years.

Established through a 1980 law, most Arizona cities and towns that went with home-rule generally continue to find it popular among residents.

Chandler voters have approved the home rule option 11 consecutive times since 1982 — by a 85%-to-15% margin in 2018 and by an 86%-to-14% margin in 2022.

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Raises

• From page 10

2026-27 salary, salary schedule and compensation data and committee recommendations to the board, according to a staff report.

The board didn't have many questions for the regular-meeting presenters, John Anguiano and Kerri Williams, who are the co-chairs of the 2026 Citizen Advisory Budget Committee.

The executive session's stated goal was for the board to consider its position and instruct its representatives on negotiations with employee union organizations.

The CUSD Super Q Committee, per the report, is the district's negotiating team, comprised of certified, support and administrative staff.

Memos in the agenda packet reference a 2% raise for all district sup-

port and certified staff and administrators, as recommended by the Super Q Committee.

There is also a list of bonus provisions and other compensation. Those include an early-signing 2% one-time stipend for employees who sign and return contracts within five business days of issuance, and a 1% stipend for CUSD "Cabinet" (upper-level district administration) members who do the same.

The raise is for an amount typical over the past several CUSD school years. But this year, compensation announcements and final decisions come about a month after three contentious meetings that solidified which of more than 100 positions were eliminated in order to cut \$12 million from the 2026-27 budget.

The board's next regular meeting is Wednesday, March 25.

Flooring

• From page 10

Andersen and Ryan elementary schools, Chandler Traditional Academies Independence and Freedom and Payne Junior High School will all be getting new flooring within the next several months.

Assistant Superintendent Tom Dunn said some of the carpeting replacement in classrooms can be done at night, while some of the heavier tile-related and grinding work will need to be done during the summer.

There are labor costs in the three contracts for moving furniture in and out of various rooms and spaces.

Dunn said the work is expected to begin during the district's upcoming spring break and will be completed sometime this summer.

Not only have some of the schools in the contracts gotten 20 years or

more out of current flooring, some, such as CTA Independence, completed in 2006, still have original carpet and flooring, according to a staff report.

Dunn said the type of white tile common in hallways and other high-traffic areas, which tends to discolor over time and is labor-intensive to maintain, will be replaced by a "polished concrete" surface.

The district has so much flooring work this year for local contractors that it's using three of them for this phase of work.

InteriorWorx Commercial Flooring was awarded a \$567,000 contract for Andersen Elementary and CTA Independence. Wholesale Floors got the \$570,000 contract for CTA Freedom and Ryan Elementary School and Continental Flooring has the \$337,000 contract for Payne Junior High School.

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 Surprise • August 18, 2026 • The Colonnade
 Sun City • September 23, 2026 • Sundial Recreation Center
 Sun City West • October 28, 2026 • SCW Foundation Center
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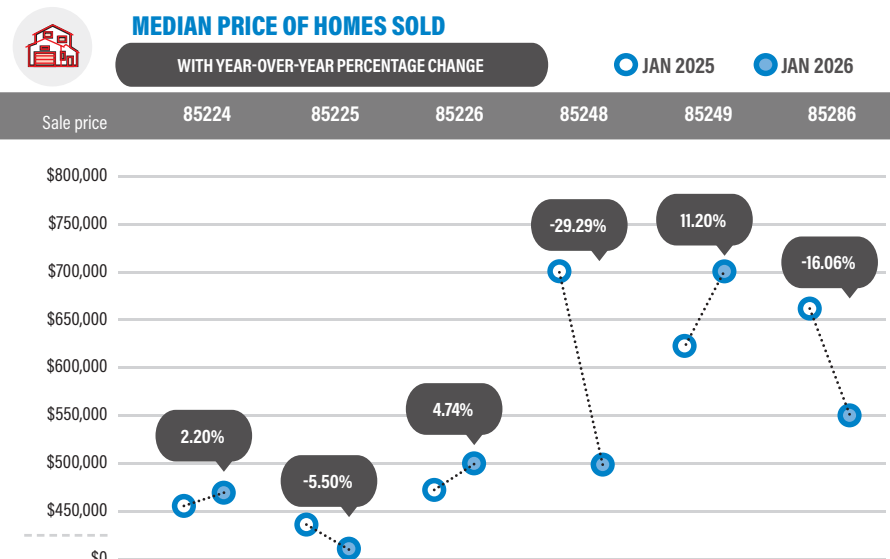
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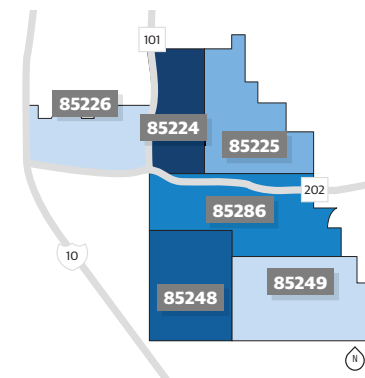
	JAN 2025	JAN 2026
85224	56	63
85225	142	131
85226	60	60
85248	63	99
85249	180	170
85286	67	99

AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET

	JAN 2025	JAN 2026
85224	53	49
85225	66	90
85226	57	56
85248	107	88
85249	73	83
85286	90	82

NUMBER OF HOMES UNDER CONTRACT

	JAN 2025	JAN 2026
85224	34	34
85225	58	44
85226	30	30
85248	22	21
85249	57	74
85286	29	46



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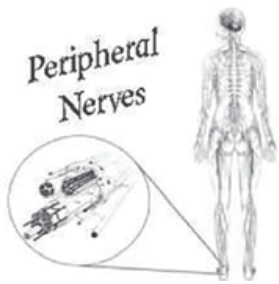
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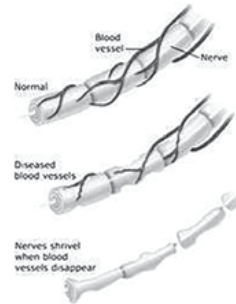
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND CHRONIC PAIN WARNING!

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.

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- 3) Decrease brain-based pain

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Aspen Medical will be offering this chronic pain and neuropathy severity examination from now until May 31, 2026. 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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Oaktree Funding expands Chandler HQ at Viridian

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Oaktree Funding Corp., located in Chandler for the past 15 years, has doubled its footprint at its headquarters at 3133 W. Frye Road.

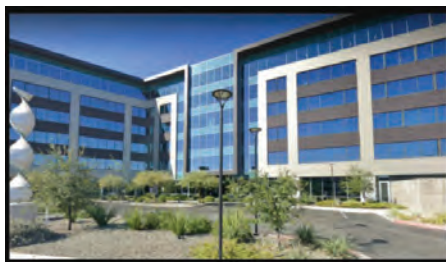
The move reflects continued company growth and a long-term investment in Chandler, according to a news release from the city.

The expansion supports Oaktree Funding Corp.'s growing operations and workforce as the company continues to scale its mortgage banking platform nationwide, the release states.

"This expansion reflects our sustained growth and confidence in Chandler as the right home for our headquarters," Kristopher Martin and Stephen Lippens, co-CEOs of Oaktree, stated in the release. "The city offers a strong business climate, access to talent and the infrastructure we need to support our team and clients as we grow."

Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said the company's expansion underscores the city's appeal to financial services firms.

"We are pleased to see Oaktree expanding in its current Chandler location," Hartke said. "Their continued investment highlights Chandler's ability to support business growth and retain established companies."



Oaktree Funding Corp., located in Chandler for the past 15 years, has doubled its footprint at its headquarters at 3133 W. Frye Road. (Courtesy of city of Chandler)

As one of the nation's NonQM lenders, Oaktree is a nationwide licensed mortgage banker, offering a portfolio of home loan products through strong relationships with government agencies and investors.

The Viridian office building is in a major business corridor near the Loop 101 and Loop 202 interchange and adjacent to Chandler Fashion Center, offering modern office infrastructure to support the company's long-term needs.

Founded in 1989, Oaktree is a mortgage banker operating across wholesale, correspondent, and retail lending channels, allowing us to serve brokers, banking partners, property investors and individual borrowers with flexibility and scale.

For more information, go to nonq-mexpert.com.



The Better Business Bureau Serving Pacific Southwest Central & Inland California and the Arizona Interscholastic Association recently awarded a \$1,000 "Ethical Athlete" scholarship to Addison Winslow of Chandler High School. From the left are Faustine Chan of the BBB, Winslow and coaches Amalia Andrews and Jalen Scharborough. (Courtesy of Better Business Bureau)



CLERK OUT

Chandler City Clerk Dana DeLong was recognized for her then-upcoming retirement at a Feb. 2 City Council study session. In front, from the left, are Council member O.D. Harris, DeLong and Mayor Kevin Hartke. In back, from the left, are Council member Jane Poston, Vice Mayor Angel Encinas, and Council members Matt Orlando and Jennifer Hawkins. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent News-media)



Echoes Unearthed

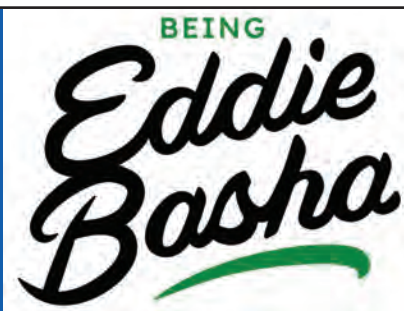
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Chandler schools: Changes for alternative programs

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Luke Hickey is the principal of Chief Hill Learning Academy — which he says is in the process of becoming an official separate alternative high school.

Speaking at a Chandler Unified Governing Board's Feb. 11 study session on alternative programs, Hickey talked about how the school functions now and what changes are afoot for the 2026-27 school year.

"We need to get a mission statement approved by you, the board," Hickey said as one of the many forms of support Chief Hill will need going forward.

Named for Ken "Chief" Hill, the late U.S. Air Force veteran who became a Chandler High JROTC instructor and later a vice principal, the building has technically housed programs for students who remain enrolled at one of CUSD's junior highs or high schools.

Hickey said the academy site is attempting to become its own alternative school with an accreditation it hopes to gain by the summer of 2027.

He also said Chief Hill should start receiving its own letter grade this year from the Arizona Department of Education's state accountability labels.

"We don't have a prediction, really," Hickey said regarding the letter grade. "But we've looked at where



Luke Hickey, principal of Chief Hill Learning Academy, tells the Chandler Unified Governing Board about planned changes to the district's alternative programs during a Feb. 11 study session. (Courtesy of Chandler USD)

we're at on all the metrics, and things look good, so far."

One of the biggest changes on the McQueen Road campus in the year ahead will be the ICAN program moving onto the campus. ICAN, which stands for Improving Chandler-Area Neighborhoods, is a 35-year-old nonprofit organization responsible for a variety of afterschool programs.

Chandler Unified has been sending some students to leased space within ICAN's facility, located near Folley Park and Frye Elementary School. The \$102,000 annual lease and staffing cuts will be a cost savings to the district as those students will be served at Chief Hill's McQueen campus.

"The teachers and the social work-

ICAN TRANSITION	
1.	Staff (Teachers, Social Worker, Attendance Interventionist are consistent)
2.	Facility Availability - School Built to House Two Programs
3.	Transportation provided
4.	Cafeteria and Lunch Before departure (optional)
5.	Consistent Curriculum Model with Buzz platform
6.	Independent study with supports and accountability
7.	High Anxiety and chronic illness
8.	Less transitions/ unstructured time during the day (passing period, lunch, etc)
9.	Individual Meetings, Welcome Meetings and tours

er will be the ones they're familiar with already," Hickey said in describing the staffing overlap that was already used at the ICAN site.

Hickey said longtime colleagues of Ken Hill have formalized their support of the school by recently forming an HLA booster club.

He also explained the basic procedures of how a student and their parents are first introduced to the Chief Hill campus and its programs, starting with a referral from a counselor at the student's home school.

The school's various pathways are oriented toward high school graduation and leaving Chief Hill with some type of job skills.

CUSD Board President Patti Serano asked how special education,

students on federal 504 disability accommodations and students on individualized education programs, or IEPs, will be accommodated at Chief Hill.

Hickey said currently, ICAN doesn't have SPED services, so none of the ICAN students coming to the Chief Hill campus will need such supports.

"As we graduate students, certainly, if we enroll students that need supports, we see our campus as 'Independent study with support and accountability,'" Hickey said. "We'll have one resource teacher, so that's one case manager as well. So if we get a 504 or IEP student, we will actually have more ability to serve them (starting in 2026-27) than we do now."

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TRANSPORTATION

Compiled by
Jason W. Brooks

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

1 Dobson Road, between Queen Creek Road to Price roads, will be the site of minor restrictions in both northbound and southbound lanes through Thursday, March 26. The estimated 35-day project is for fiber installation.

2 Chandler Heights Road will be the location of minor restrictions in both directions at Crossbow Way. The estimated 18-day project is for a fire-line connection through Thursday, March 19.

3 Queen Creek Road, from Dakota Place to Arizona Avenue, will be the site of major restrictions for eastbound traffic through Sunday, March 22. The estimated 28-day project is for concrete work and

sidewalk removal and replacement.

4 Frye Road, from Fairview Street to Arizona Avenue, will be the site of major night restrictions in both directions through Monday, March 30. The estimated 30-day project is for utility work.

5 Alma School Road, both northbound and southbound, and three other streets in the Alma School / Chandler Boulevard area will be the sites of major restrictions through Thursday, March 19. The other streets involved are Chandler Boulevard and Galveston and Hartford streets — all in both directions. The estimated 11-day project is for slurry sealing.

6 Chandler Boulevard, from Gila Springs Boulevard to Beck Avenue, will be the site of weekend restrictions through Saturday, March 21.



The estimated 13-day project is for boring.

7 Knox Road, in both directions from Alma School Road to Arizona

Avenue, will be the site of minor weekend restrictions in both directions through Thursday, March 26. The estimated 116-day project is for boring, trenching and pothole work.



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PREVENTION



NOT IN OUR CITY

Chandler City Council member O.D. Harris, left poses with Pastor Mike Gowan of Bethel Church of Chandler and Mayor Kevin Hartke at a Feb. 2 meeting. Hartke read a proclamation declaring the week of Feb. 21-27 as “Not In Our City Week” in recognizing one ongoing cause Gowan is involved with: prevention of human trafficking. (Jason W. Brooks/Independent Newsmedia)

Coach

• From page 16

jo stated in the news release. “The combination of his professional experience and deep-rooted connection to Servite makes him the perfect fit to lead our young men moving forward.”

Garretson is also quoted in the release. He stated he’s looking forward to attacking the challenges and making the most of the opportunities that exist in the Trinity League, where the Friars compete.

“I want to continue the tradition that makes Servite football and Servite High School so special,” Gar-

retson stated.

Garretson owns numerous season and lifetime-achievement coaching awards, including the City of Chandler Legendary Coaches Award, which he received in 2023.

Prior to his time at Chandler, Garretson was a Servite football assistant from 1989 to 2004, working as pass game coordinator before becoming the offensive coordinator in 1995.

A Friar himself, Garretson was an all-state selection his senior year before going on to compete at San Diego State.

The release states Servite welcomes Garretson, his wife Wendy and three children back to the Friar family.

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THING TO DO



The Chandler Symphony Orchestra is scaling back for its concerts in its chamber music series that picked up again in February. Its next concert is set for the afternoon on Sunday, April 12. (Courtesy of Chandler Symphony Orchestra)

Symphony orchestra plans free show

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Chandler Symphony Orchestra is scaling back for its concerts in its chamber music series.

The public is invited to attend a conducted "musician's choice" concert. This show — set for 3 p.m., Sunday, April 12 — is sure to offer variety and music most fans haven't heard

before.

The concert is at Risen Savior Lutheran Church Worship Center's north building, 23620 S. Alma School Road, Chandler.

The show is free to attend. Donations are gratefully received at concerts or online anytime at chandler-symphony.org/donate.

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