



Tempe council won't allow Marshall on Spence project to push deadline

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Nearly a year after presenting to the Development Review Commission, rezoning for the Marshall on Spence apartments, planned for Rural Road and Apache Boulevard, has still not been put to a vote by the city council.

During the April 16 regular meeting, Mayor Corey Woods suggested to council the numerous project delays have been excessive and that June 4 would be the final date the council would hear the rezoning request.

"I would like to see if the June 4 regular meeting could be a firm date and we would not grant any continuances," said Mayor Woods.

The council voted unanimously to allow the hearing to move to June 4 for the project to be rezoned to a mixed-use property instead of a residential one.

• See **Project** on page 21



By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

On top of a hill above Papago Park is the Arizona Heritage Center museum in Tempe. A 30-year-old brick façade with a desert garden courtyard hosts hundreds of people and events year-round. In August 2025, disaster struck.

Several devastating monsoons and storms brought at least 2 feet of water to the museum's Steele Auditorium, causing the area to flood significantly for months and leaving the administration to make difficult decisions on how to proceed.

"Oddly enough, the day of the

flooding was the day we were doing our emergency management tour so I thought I was getting my leg pulled," said David Breeckner, executive director of the Arizona Historical Society.

"It was devastating though, and then for two months we would pump it out day by day and then the water would return," he said.

Breeckner said the property was built before Papago Park and the additional landscaping and construction could have resulted in creating a floodplain for the area of the property where the auditorium is located.

Because of the flooding, the Arizona Historical Society held its annual

Historymakers Gala at the Scott Hotel and Resort instead of the Heritage Center.

On the night of April 15, the nine who were chosen for the award were honored with an exhibition of their own.

The award recipients cut the ribbon to symbolize the display of the Historymakers and the renovations to the property that are yet to be completed.

The Heritage Center will close in July for massive remodels, but the Historical Society will remain strong, Breeckner said as the group plans to

Bob Boze Bell, left, Diana "Dede" Divine, John Graham, Dr. Oliver and Sharon Harper, Dr. Sister Adele O'Sullivan, Ron Rayner, Eric Reiman and Dr. Duane Wooten stand in front of the new display at the Arizona Historical Museum. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

• See **Historymakers** on page 21

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AN UPDATE?**

LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

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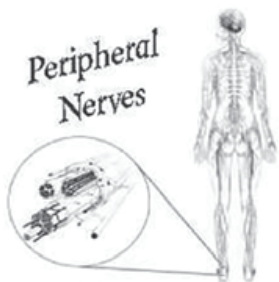


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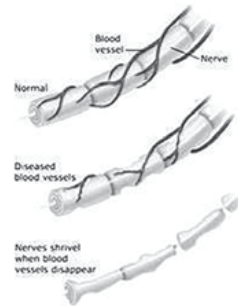
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COMMUNITY



Crossroads employees prepare dinner for almost 200 people in the new space at University Presbyterian Church in Tempe. (Aris Foundation)

Homeless outreach organization moves locations

By Madeline Bates

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Aris Foundation, a Tempe-based organization that helps homeless individuals, has been relocated to the University Presbyterian Church at 139 E. Alameda Drive for its weekly dinner and gathering to help those in need.

The previous location was the parking lot of Mountain Park Health Center in Tempe. When they announced they would be changing their hours, they also said Aris would not be able to operate its services due to the new hours.

"We're here in such a magical place, it's such a great location," said Katherine Kouvelas Edick, founder and CEO of Aris.

Electricity, air-conditioning and bathrooms are a few of the amenities the volunteers and recipients enjoy about the new space.

"This saves me from a lot of stuff because if not, I'd be too focused on the things that go on out here," said Chris Wyatt who has been coming to

Aris gatherings for about two months.

Wyatt has been homeless for about two years and said that being in the heat can get tiring, but having a place for a meal and community is worth returning to.

Aris also partners with Crossroads, a rehabilitation center that helps those on the streets connect with resources to end addiction and build a community while they recover. Meals for the community rotate every week and food boxes are available for those who are food insecure.

"They're just an excellent organization and we have a really great partnership," said University Presbyterian elder Jo Lewis.

Lewis is also the director of mission services and says Aris's mission to help those in need aligns perfectly with the church.

Aris and Crossroads are always open to donations and Aris welcomes new volunteers for meal preparation every month.

To learn more about Aris or to give, go to <https://arisfoundation.org>.

ON YOURVALLEY.NET**Tempe shooter to serve life in prison for 2023 murder of girlfriend**

A Valley man was sentenced to life in prison and an additional 26 years for the murder of his girlfriend in Tempe in 2023.

Adrian Aguilar, 23, received the sentence for the murder of his 19-year-old girlfriend, Amira Crofton, in Tempe, according to a press release from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/mr-4wm798>

Palm fronds collapse on tree trimmer in Tempe

A 57-year-old man died the morning of April 12 after a palm skirt, which officials said can weigh hundreds of pounds, fell on him while he was trimming a tree in Tempe, police said.

HOLIDAY**Tempe renames March 31 Cesar Chavez Day following assault allegations**

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The city of Tempe has renamed March 31 "Cesar Chavez Day" to "Women Farmworkers Day" following accusations of assault that came to light weeks ago.

As part of city employee contracts, Tempe once celebrated March 31 with a paid holiday recognizing Cesar Chavez and his work as a leader in the farmworkers movement. The holiday will still be a paid day off for employees, but will go under a different name.

"This is a council in a city that continues to stand with women, victims and survivors of sexual abuse.

I really appreciate the fact that our staff came together so quickly and had a robust conversation on naming this day after women farmworkers," Mayor Corey Woods said at the end of the March 26 council meeting.

The change comes after the New York Times published an investigation where three women, including famed activist Dolores Huerta, claimed that Chavez sexually assaulted them for years resulting in decades of trauma as well as two children that Huerta gave up for adoption.

The investigation found documents, letters and witness testimo-

ny that aligned with the stories of the three women who spoke out.

The council did not vote on a resolution, but instead had a discussion with the six-sided partnership that consisted of United Arizona Employees Association, Tempe Officers Association, Tempe Supervisors Association, International Association of Fire Fighters, Confidential Employees and the Senior Management Team.

The group will come together later in the year to discuss what the holiday will be permanently renamed beginning in 2027.

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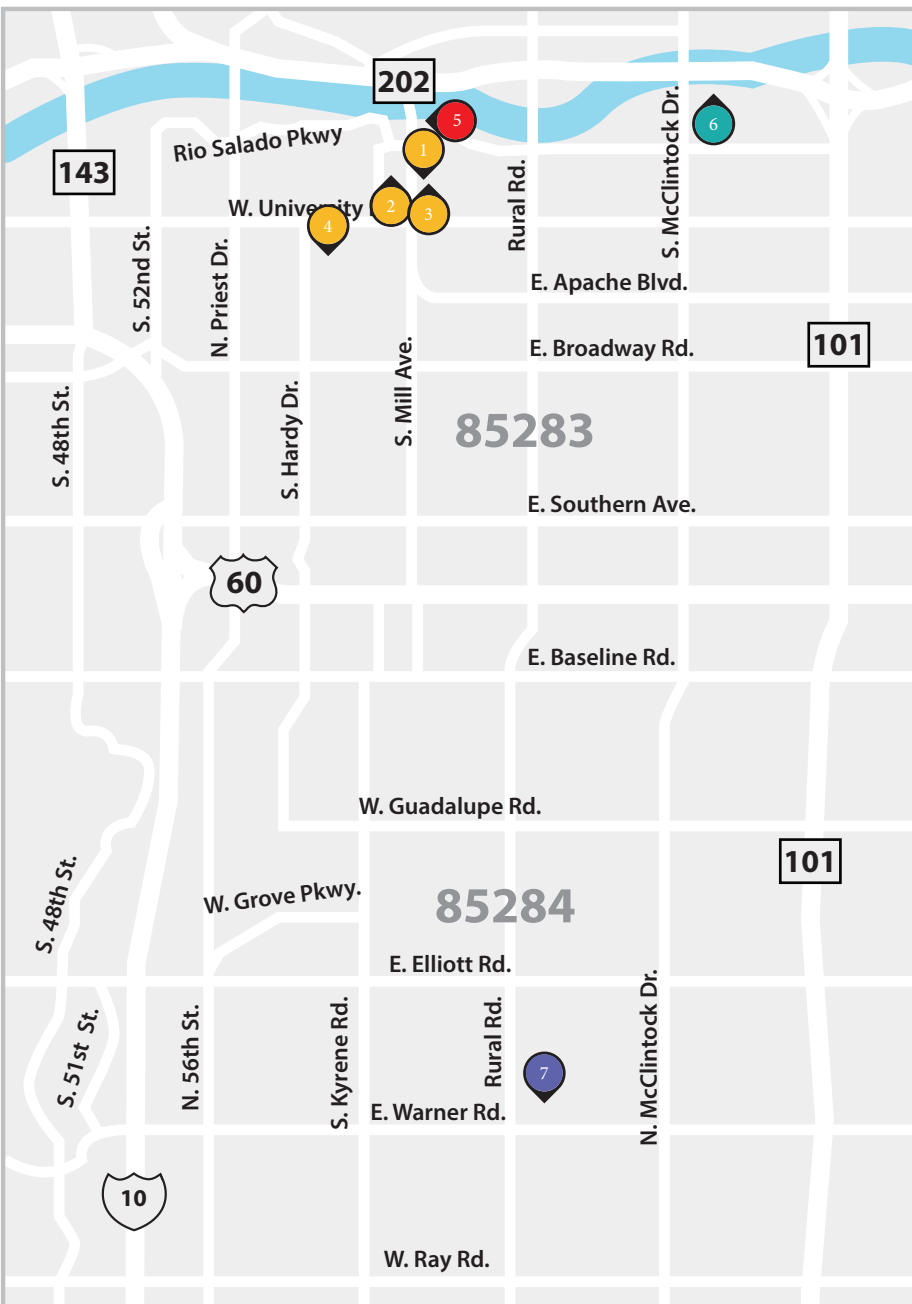








BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Richard H. Dyer

LIQUOR LICENSES

The Tempe City Council on April 16 was slated to make a recommendation to the Arizona Department of Liquor License and Control for the approval

for:

- 1 • A series 10 beer and wine store liquor license for Hive Grab N Go Holdings LLC, dba **Hive Grab N Go**, 425 S. Mill Ave. No. 108 in Tem-

pe. Korey James Stern is the agent. This application is for an established business applying for a new license.

- 2 • A series 11 hotel/motel liquor license for 601 South Ash Ave Property Owner LLC, dba **Sonesta Select Tempe**, 601 S. Ash Ave. in Tempe. Amy S. Nations is the agent. This application is for an existing location with a new owner. The application includes a contiguous patio as part of the licensed premises. The applicant is operating with an interim permit.

- 3 • A Series 12 restaurant liquor license for Culinary Gangster Mill Ave Inc, dba **Culinary Gangster**, 501 S. Mill Ave. in Tempe. Rocco Richard Raschillo is the agent. This application is for a new business applying for a new license. This application includes a contiguous patio as part of the licensed premises.

- 4 • A series 12 restaurant liquor license for Purely Rice LLC, dba **Thai Rice Table**, 825 W. University Drive in Tempe. Jittarath Voraprechanich is the agent. This application is for a new business applying for a new license at an established location that did not previously hold a liquor license. This application includes a contiguous patio as part of the licensed premises.

COMING SOON

- 5 **KB Home** is relocating its corporate headquarters from Los Angeles to Tempe. The new headquarters will be located at Hayden Ferry Lakeside in Tempe in the spring of next year, company officials announced. KB Home will continue to maintain a presence in California through its six operating divisions. The company operates in 49 markets and has built more than 700,000 homes in its nearly 70-year history, a release stated.



LIQUOR LICENSES



KB HOME

OPENINGS

- 6 **Relive Health** recently had a grand opening at 2010 E. Rio Salado Parkway No. 117 at Tempe Marketplace with a ribbon cutting, raffles, week-long Botox, fillers, laser and esthetics specials, plus complimentary consults for weight loss, hormones and peptides. <https://tinyurl.com/3pa9hfjm>

ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 The Tempe location of **Bahama Buck's** recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Once on the Arizona State University campus in the Memorial Union, the business later moved to 1006 E. Warner Road for more space to serve the rest of the Tempe community. Bahama Buck's is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and closed on Sundays. <https://bahamabucks.com/shop/tempe>

If you have a new business that has just opened, is under construction or is celebrating an anniversary, please email rdyer@iniusa.org

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BUSINESS

Tempe approves massage parlor despite neighborhood opposition

By Madeline Bates

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Ben Zheng and his family have been trying to open a new massage parlor for months now. The process was halted after neighbors agreed they did not want a massage parlor at the corner of Kyrene and Warner in Tempe, about two miles from the address where Zheng and his family planned to open Massage Aces.

Matt Smith, a long-term resident of the Warner Ranch neighborhood and self-employed designer, gathered more than 55 signatures from 10 neighborhoods that agreed that they opposed a new massage parlor in the area.

Smith argued at the March 26 Tempe City Council meeting that a new massage parlor would not be beneficial for the area and that other

businesses had poor reviews, making a poor reputation for the area. He originally took his request to the Development Review Commission and now the city council, where he argued that a massage parlor would not benefit the area.

"Massage establishments have an uncanny ability to present themselves in one way than what they represent in reality," Smith said.

Smith referred to Criterion C of the reasons to file an appeal, which states that the establishment should not contribute to the "deterioration of the neighborhood or to the downgrading of property values, which is in conflict with the goals, objectives or policies of the area."

Zheng and his family applied for a use permit to open Massage Aces at



Ryan Levesque

1761 E. Warner Road, on the corner of Warner and McClintock, to relocate their business for more space. The family currently owns Golden Reflexology across the street from the proposed address.

"When they file a use permit, what is represented on the permit is often not what they offer. One-star reviews will tell you that these places misrepresent what they do," Smith said. "Consider what kind of Tempe you want to live in," he said in his closing statement.

Many of the poor reviews of other massage places cite poor communication, rude service or unclean spaces.

Ryan Levesque, deputy community development director for the city, said Tempe Police have not received any complaints of misconduct, and there are no open investigations of any massage parlor in the area.

Zheng spoke on behalf of his fami-

ly and shared that the business would be open to routine inspections and comply with all city regulations and requests.

"What Mr. Smith mentioned about the transparency of the windows does not apply here," Zhang said with his interpreter during the meeting.

He also noted the city has the right and the power to conduct inspections at any time and that the business would consent to a search at any time.



Randy Keating

Smith denied an interview and did not share how he felt at the end of the night after the council unanimously denied his request.

"I didn't realize that Golden Reflexology was owned by the same group, and seeing that there has been no issues

• See **Massage** on page 9

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REFRESHMENTS

Bahama Buck's turns 20, from national brand to Tempe staple

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

In the summer of 1990, Blake Buchanan started the first Bahama Buck's in Lubbock, Texas. In 2005, the brand came to Arizona and opened in Tempe. Now the Tempe location is celebrating 20 years of "Sno."

"We're a family business that feels like family," said Tyler Girtman, who owns the Tempe location with his wife, Ashley.

Once on the Arizona State University campus in the Memorial Union, the business moved to 1006 E. Warner Road for more space to serve the rest of the Tempe community.

While the official anniversary was in November, the Girtmans wanted a spring celebration for the warmer weather to pair with their tropical flavors.

To celebrate, Girtman and the crew hosted several deals on April 24 to celebrate the 20th anniversary with a chance to win Bahama Bucks for a whole year.

"In 20 years, I hope we're still celebrating that same feeling when you



Ashley and Tyler Girtman, owners of four Bahama Buck's locations. (Ashley and Tyler Girtman)

walk in for a first date or a birthday. I hope we continue being a staple," he said.

Guests can expect all of the Bahama Bucks favorites as well as deals on dirty sodas, Dr. Pepper releases and prizes.

Bahama Buck's is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

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

Massage

• From page 8

with the business owner or the establishment, I wouldn't feel good about myself voting to deny someone the opportunity to do business in the city of Tempe," Councilmember Randy Keating said.

Councilmember Nikki Amberg agreed.

"I don't from a legal standpoint think I can sit here and say I am going to deny the ability to open up a mas-

sage parlor or any massage establishment," Amberg said.

Vice Mayor Doreen Garlid moved to deny the appeal and approve the use permit but with the stipulations from the Development Review Commission that included transparent windows.

The motion passed unanimously and Massage Aces will move forward with construction in the following months. Zheng says they plan on opening before the end of 2026.

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EDUCATION



Kyrene de la Colina Elementary School in Ahwatukee was among the top four 2026 prize winners in the Read to the Final Four, a statewide literacy competition affiliated with the 2026 NCAA Women's Final Four in downtown Phoenix. (Courtesy of Phoenix Final Four Committee)

Kyrene school makes final 8 in reading contest

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A Kyrene District elementary school reached the final eight in a reading contest as part of the NCAA Women's Final Four.

Kyrene de la Colina Elementary School in Ahwatukee is among the top four 2026 prize winners in the Read to the Final Four, a statewide literacy competition affiliated with the 2026 NCAA Women's Final Four — the national college basketball finale that downtown Phoenix hosted April 2-5.

Colina was joined by Mary C. O'Brien Elementary in Casa Grande, Sun Canyon Elementary and Villa de Paz Elementary School in Phoenix in advancing to the Final Four of the contest.

Colina edged out a tough East Valley competitor. Chandler Traditional Academy Freedom, a Chandler Unified school, that made the Final Four in the 2024 contest, when the men's championship was played in Glendale. CTA Freedom made the final eight round this year.

The Final Four schools were celebrated on Thursday, April 2, at the Phoenix Convention Center. O'Brien from Casa Grande was awarded a grand prize of \$5,000 to support reading, literacy or library programs, and each of the three runner-up schools was awarded \$2,500, according to a news release.

Read to the Final Four is free and open to public schools statewide.

• See **Reading** on page 12

MEETING

Kyrene school board hears first read of regulations regarding parental involvement

By Madeline Bates

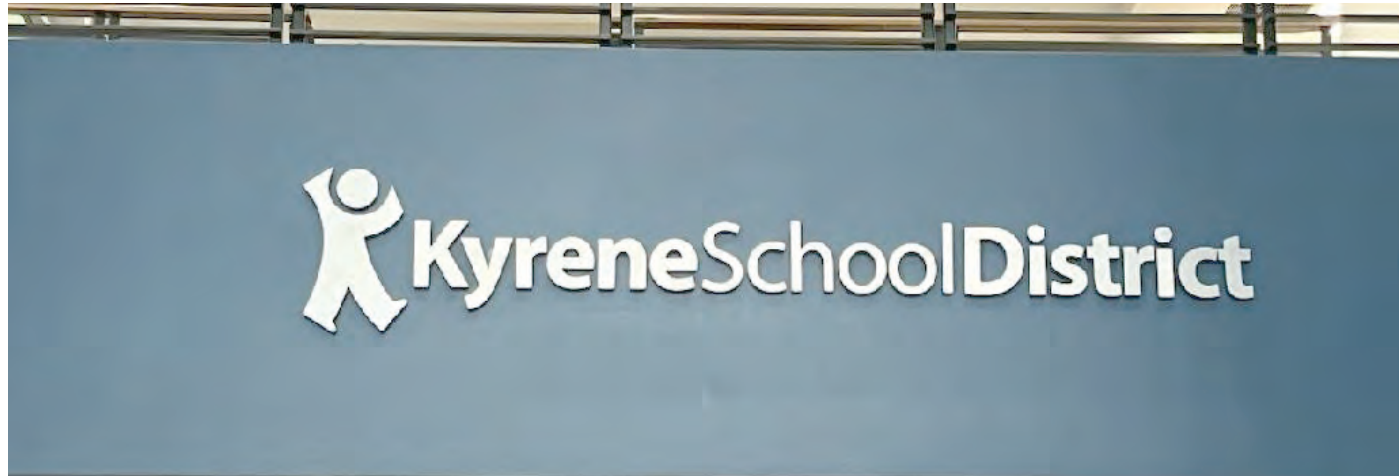
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Kyrene Elementary School District governing board recently completed the first read of several policies relating to patriotic statements, student health and police interviews.

The board voted to approve the first read of these provisions as recommended by the state Legislature for all schools. The board will hear a second reading at the next meeting on April 28.

“A lot of these are rules that we already have in place,” Superintendent Laura Toenjes said before the board’s discussion.

The board showed their concerns regarding student safety and parent



A sign that reads 'Kyrene School District' on a blue wall of a balcony at the Kyrene Administrative Building. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

choice regarding health protocol, as the new provision allowed parents and guardians to request the health

certificates and qualifications of the adult who helps them.

Member Bunny Davis suggested

the language and policies be more

• See **Board** on page 12



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Reading

• From page 10

The NCAA launched the program in 2016 and has continued it annually in collaboration with Final Four host communities.

Sponsored by the Helios Education Foundation, Read to the Final Four is a free statewide challenge that encourages Arizona third-graders

to build strong reading habits through a bracket-style competition based on average minutes read per week.

Third grade marks a critical stage in literacy development, as students transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Since the competition's launch on Nov. 3, 2025, 190 schools and 12,082 third-grade students across Arizona have logged a combined

17.8 million minutes read.

With four schools making in the Challenge Bracket, four additional schools advanced to the program's Best of the Rest bracket, joining 182 schools continuing to participate, the release states.

Schools competing in the Best of the Rest bracket may receive books to support their libraries and literacy programs.

Read to the Final Four was first

introduced in Arizona during the 2017 NCAA Men's Final Four and returned in 2024, with the program now reaching more students than ever ahead of the 2026 NCAA Women's Final Four.

Since its introduction, the contest has engaged more than 70,000 third-graders statewide, resulting in 61.8 million minutes read, the release states.

Board

• From page 11

clear on the website and in other places parents can find the information about the district's new and existing policies.

"We don't lose anything by telling them more than once," she said.

The next required students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and

learn about the Constitution. The provision also included age-appropriate education of Sept. 11, 2001, for students in grades 7 to 12.

Member Cedric Collins, a high school teacher, recognized some parents may want their student to opt out of saying the Pledge of Allegiance or learning about some topics of our country.

"I live in the real world, sometimes there's retaliatory action against people

if they choose not to do things," Collins said.

The board concluded that while parents and students might disagree, it is the student's right not to participate.

Jordan Ellel, attorney for Kyrene and the surrounding school districts, gave his input and helped to clarify language for the board. He said retaliation language can mirror existing language in Title 9 laws.

The final provision would require parents to be notified within a reasonable time should a police officer interview a student.

Should officers interview a student, they are already required to fill out a form and parents are required to be notified; however, the language about how soon or often a parent should be notified was not defined.

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

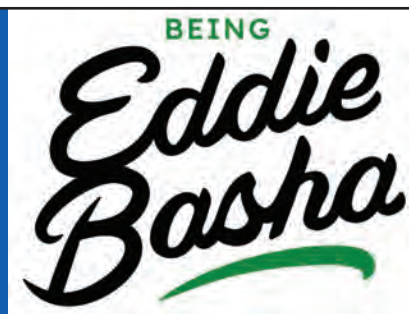


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ASU faculty Paralympian with hopes of making LA games

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Every day, Chris Hammer wakes up, says “hi” to his wife and kids, and goes for a run. When he finishes, he goes for a bike ride, then a swim, all before he needs to be at his job on the Arizona State University campus in Tempe.

Hammer is a three-time Paralympian with a limb difference as he was born without a left hand. He won a gold medal in triathlon at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.

“My dream was just to finish on the podium; I never anticipated that I could win the gold,” he said about his win in Paris.

Hammer has a doctorate in sports psychology and an MBA. Now, his passions of education and athletics meet as he works for ASU as a part-time project coordinator.

He wasn’t always a triathlete. In his youth, he enjoyed running and joined the Paralympic Track and Field team, which took him to the London Games in 2012. In 2013, he decided to try a triathlon as a new challenge.

Triathletes must perfect each discipline to their fullest potential before putting it all together. Hammer’s winning time in Paris was 58 minutes and 44 seconds, which won him his only gold.

“So much can change between now and then, but right now I’m focused on giving it my all and improving in any way I can,” he said.

Despite being born with a limb difference, Hammer said it was never brought up in training.

The handlebars on his bike have been modified to hold his arm, making it more stable when he’s riding.

“It was just the logical next step be-



Chris Hammer won the gold medal at the Paris Paralympics in 2024. (USA Triathlon)

cause I wanted to learn more, I wanted to improve myself and I wanted to develop the capacity to help the performance of others,” he said.

He had looked into coaching and

teaching as career paths, but it wasn’t until his Paralympic win that he was able to make triathlon a career choice.

Hammer is prepared to keep competing in any way he can. He won the 2024 World Championships in Spain following the Olympics.

For now, the Gilbert resident enjoys events with his sponsor, Valley Toyota Dealers and showing the public his medal.

“If you see a Toyota Sienna with a USA Triathlon wrap on it, it’s probably me,” he said.

The Los Angeles 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic triathlons will be at Venice Beach in California with tickets on sale at <https://la28.org/en/games-plan/venues/venice-beach.html>

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Music Under the Stars at Tempe Diablo Stadium. (Courtesy City of Tempe)

Tempe sees even more spring training fans in 2026

By Madeline Bates
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe saw an increase in fans at spring training games this year, mirroring a trend that saw the Cactus League grow attendance for the fifth straight year.

The 2026 Cactus League season, saw 96,211 in attendance at Tempe Diablo Stadium for 15 Los Angeles Angels games. This is more than a 2,000-attendee increase from 2025 attendance, which was 93,994.

Stadium capacity is about 9,600 and average attendance was 6,414. That average was less than the reported 7,400 fans per game through the spring training season, according to the Cactus League's final results.

Collective attendance at all 10 Valley spring training stadiums rose for the fifth straight season in 2026. The Cactus League drew a total of 1,753,849 fans to 237 games, a 3.4%

increase representing a change of 58,369 fans over 2025 and the largest single-season attendance total since 2018, the league announced in March.

The Common Sense Institute estimates that spectators spent between \$10 million and 45 million on travel to and from Arizona and games as well as a minimum of \$74 million on hotels and lodging during the month.

Attendance hit an all-time high in 2017 with more than 1.94 million fans. In 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic overall attendance dropped to 446,000 amid spacing mandates and is slowing recovering to 2017 attendance numbers.

Independent Newsmedia Editor Steve Stockmar contributed to this story. To voice your opinion on this story, connect with us at AZOpinions@iniusa.org.

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THINGS TO DO

MAY 3

Phoenix Children's Chorus

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. With traditional folk music to spirituals, to the melodies of Broadway, this concert showcases the unique voice of American music.
3-5:00 p.m. at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Tickets start at \$23 at <https://tinyurl.com/26tsrudr>

MAY 6

Youth job, volunteer fair

The city of Tempe's College Connect program and Arizona@Work-Maricopa County will be providing youth ages 14-24 with the opportunity to meet with employers and other organizations for an engaging in-person job and volunteer fair 2-5 p.m. at Tempe Union High School District Innovation Center, 490 W. Guadalupe Road in Tempe.

The volunteer and career readiness opportunities are for ages 14 and older and the job opportunities are for ages 16 and older. Don't forget to bring your state-issued ID card, bring copies of your resume, dress professionally, be prepared to speak directly with employers. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/3m5ycm6s>

MAY 16

Bubble Bash

Tempe Marketplace, 2000 E. Rio Salado Parkway, is giving families a fun and free way to cool off with the return of Bubble Bash, a family-friendly event filled with foam, entertainment and interactive bubble fun.
The event is 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and features overflowing foam zones at The Splash Pad, live entertainment, giveaways and plenty of bubbly fun for the whole family. Also bubble bicycles, foam art and bazooka foam blasters.
<https://tempemarketplace.com/>

MAY 23-JUNE 7

'Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors'

A fast-paced adaptation of Bram Stoker's gothic classic, this laugh-out-loud reimagining blends horror, farce, and pop culture references into a whirlwind of theatrical humor. Arizona Theatre Co. shows at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/juzd3kk3>

OPENING

Artists, students partner for Chandler Museum exhibit

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

"Artists in Schools: America the Beautiful" is a Chandler Museum exhibit that opened earlier this month.

The exhibit displays art made by students from the Chandler Unified and Kyrene Elementary school districts, created in partnership with four local artists.

The exhibition will be on view through Sunday, May 10, according to a news release.

Returning for its third year, the Artists in Schools program offers Chandler students an opportunity to work with professional artists from across the Valley, the release states.

Four artists worked with more than 400 students in four schools to collaborate on this special project. The resulting artwork displays the new skills, creative

methods and thought processes the students learned with these teachers.

Inspired by the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, this year's projects were themed to celebrate the people, ideas and stories that bring us together and give hope for the future of the country, the release states.

The hours of the museum, which is at 300 S. Chandler Village Drive, near the Chandler Fashion Center, are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays. It's closed Mondays; admission is free.

Find information on the exhibitions and programming at <https://www.chandleraz.gov/explore/arts-and-culture/chandler-museum> or by calling 480-782-2717.

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Tempe History Museum debuts lowrider exhibit

By Madeline Bates

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tempe residents may have seen them driving by or caught a glimpse of the sparkles in the paint, but lowriders are more than just a modification; it's a lifestyle.

The Tempe History Museum debuted "Ranfla Vida" — Spanish for "lowrider life" — on March 22 accompanied by a showing of an expected 80 to 100 cars. The exhibit is on display through Dec. 31.

"It's a community in itself, of other riders that work on their cars and build them because it's a support system," museum curator Marco Albarran said.

Albarran has been part of the lowriding community since the 1970s and has his jacket displayed in the museum of the group he is affiliated with.



Domonic Sepulveda stands beside his 1963 Chevy Impala outside the Tempe History Museum. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

Lowriding car clubs started in Los Angeles in the 1970s and made their way east to the Phoenix area. By the 1980s, there were lowriding clubs in

• See **History** on page 18



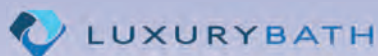
Marco Albarran stands beside his "Ariza Cruisers" jacket. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

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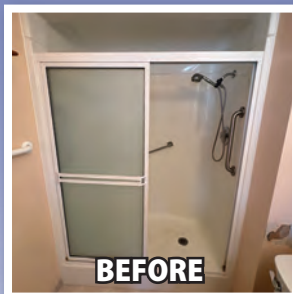
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History

• From page 16

Japan, and today there are several in Australia, Mexico, and throughout the Southwest.

Some even made their way to Tempe.

Domonic Sepulveda, owner of one of the vehicles displayed, said he wanted to incorporate the parts of Tempe he felt closest to on his 1963 Chevy Impala.

The visual on the back trunk shows the intersection of Victory and George Roads in the neighborhood of Victory Acres, where he grew up. It also depicts the Hayden Flour Mill where his grandfather worked as well as a neighborhood market where he spent time as a kid.

"I grew up seeing them and they really caught my eye, and I said, 'I want to build something like that one day,'" Sepulveda said.



Lowrider vehicle displayed in front of the Tempe History Museum. (Independent Newsmedia, Madeline Bates)

He would soon be part of a growing community that brought together Chicano, Latino, and Indigenous cultures throughout the Southwest.

The inside exhibit describes the history of lowriding and how it became a culture through fashion that was carried through generations.

Suits, fedoras and jackets identified members of each group, each with names like the Little Mafia, Klique and Pharaohs.

The Tempe History Museum is always free and open to the public 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. The exhibition runs through Dec. 31.

To learn more, visit the location at 809 E. Southern Ave. in Tempe or visit <https://www.tempe.gov/government/community-services/tempe-history-museum>

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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.

SPEAK UP

Here are some comments about stories happening in your area:

Tempe to try new license plate cameras, work toward canceling Flock

"What's the difference?" — Jane Kao

...

"Jane, same type of company, the difference lies in how they currently use the data they collect. Flock has been accused of sharing data with federal agencies and surveillance. While Axon may not currently do so, all companies are continually looking for ways to increase revenues and it's likely just a matter of time before Axon follows suit or sells data to insurance companies and others who can make use of the data." — Tina T.

Tempe PD investigates destruction of Muslim symbol on A Mountain

"This is so sad. I am sorry to the Muslim community for the disrespect they experienced." — Robert Broch

See where to get cheap gas in Tempe as prices rise

"An economist's point of view: I saw someone holding a \$9 coffee and using their new model iPhone talking about how they can't afford daily life anymore with gas and grocery prices the way they are. You drive, you don't think about gas prices and just fill up, don't worry about it. This is no way an endorsement of war, but just saying many people complaining about the price of gas don't budget their life well. Not all, but many." — Ron James

...

"Cheap Gas? The price of round beef is high, expected to go higher. I don't worry about it though... I can't afford the gas to get there. (Satire). — Thomas Spishock

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.



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HISTORY



Chandler Museum's newest exhibit, "Radio That Rocked the Valley," will take visitors on a journey through Phoenix radio history. The exhibit is presented in collaboration with the House of Broadcasting Inc., a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of radio in Arizona. It will be on view through Sept. 27. (Courtesy of Chandler Museum)

'Radio That Rocked the Valley' exhibit on display

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Chandler Museum's newest exhibit, "Radio That Rocked the Valley," will take visitors on a journey through Phoenix radio history.

The exhibit is presented in collaboration with the House of Broadcasting Inc., a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich history of radio in Arizona. It will be on view through Sept. 27.

"Radio That Rocked the Valley" showcases the region's major radio stations, past and present, according to a news release.

Using radio technology and memorabilia, the exhibition honors Arizona's broadcasting industry and its many creative talents, including Pat McMahon ("The Wallace and Ladmo Show"), Al McCoy (announcer for the Phoenix Suns) and many more.

Jim West, a 50-year veteran of radio and television, stated "Long before television, radio served the desert town that grew to become the Phoenix we know today. From Phoenix's first station in June of 1922 to the many stations that influence and entertain today, we are eager to share the impact radio has had on (Phoenix) Valley radio."

"Radio That Rocked the Valley" will be open until Sept. 27 at the Chandler Museum, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, closed Mondays. Free admission.

Find information on the exhibits and programming at <https://www.chandleraz.gov/explore/arts-and-culture/chandler-museum> or by calling 480-782-2717.

FROM THE COVER

The site at 1026 E. Spence Ave. is currently occupied by a multifamily residential complex known as the Tempe Palms apartments, which was constructed in 1970. (City of Tempe)



Project

• From page 1

The site, currently known as the Tempe Palms apartments at 1026 E. Spence Ave., has proposed changes to become a seven-story, 105-unit apartment complex.

The site is on 0.88 acres and has 89 proposed parking spaces. Concerns about the space from the public and the council could have led to planning delays.

City Attorney Eric Anderson recommended the council add to the motion that no further continuances would be granted aside from what he called “an extremely good cause.”

Anderson did not elaborate but the council passed the motion and will hold a second and final hearing for the Marshall on Spence project on June 4 at the regular council meeting at 6 p.m. at the city chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.

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

Historymakers

• From page 1

still do off-site events, visit schools and continue to educate Arizonans on the history of the state.

The foundation is launching a \$3 million capital campaign to raise funds for the project with hopes of raising as much money as possible to create a more innovative and functional space for years to come.

“Just like our technology has changed in 30 years, I think the ways that we can tell those stories and the tools we can use to engage with it have evolved too so let’s make it more accessible to the next generation,” Breeckner said.

While he didn’t share what specifically will be added, Breeckner said he is excited to bring out more of the archived pieces from the museum to show a deeper understanding of Arizona history and to support the



Entrance to the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe. (Independent Newsmedia/Madeline Bates)

stories of those who built the state, and who were here since the beginning of time.

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

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