CHANDLER INDEPENDENT
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Volume 5 Issue 4
NOVEMBER 2026
Arizona's Nonpartisan Newspaper

INSIDE

Pizza shop manager grateful for regulars.

Page 6



Being Prepared



Denise McCreery serves up some chocolates made in the D'Vine Gourmet shop she and her husband, Andrew, run in downtown Chandler. The shop, which sells items made by more than 150 Arizona vendors, makes a few adjustments in advance of each holiday season. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

Businesses approach holiday shopping season differently

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

If there happens to be a slow season for some types of small businesses around Chandler this year, D'Vine Gourmet seems likely to endure it well.

After all, the dessert and gift shop has survived nearly everything.

Denise McCreery, who co-owns D'Vine Gourmet with her husband, Andrew, said some of her store's adjustments for the holidays is simply more of everything, from promotion to ordering more volume.

"For a lot of Arizona businesses, knowing how to survive summer is the hardest part," McCreery said, talking

• See **Holidays** Page **10**

Foundation delivers 'Woohoos' to teachers

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Tandem bikes are just one of dozens of projects the Chandler Education Foundation's Cash For Classrooms "Woohoo" program paid for this year.

The Foundation's program funded 69 grant proposals with more than $104,000 in grant money this year, including special education teacher Karen Hudak's proposal for tandem bikes to be used with visually impaired students.

Nicole Hehl, marketing and campaigns director for the foundation, said the Cash For Classrooms "Woohoo" program is one of several ways CEF helps Chandler Unified School District educators pay for special supplemental classroom tools and other items.

"CEF has been awarding Cash For Classrooms, or C4C, grants since 1996," Hehl said. "It used to be called the 100% Awareness Campaign. The grants support re-

• See **Teachers** Page **14**

RENOVATE YOUR GATE
YOUR GATE NEED AN UPDATE?
LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
PAGE 7

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Snap your passport photo at City Hall

Applying for a passport just got easier. The City Clerk's Office now has a self-service passport photo booth on the first floor of Chandler City Hall, and no appointment is needed. Retake as many times as you like and pay $14.99 only when you're happy with your photo.

The booth only accepts credits cards and contactless payments. Adults and children must be able to sit on their own in a small enclosed raised booth with a height-adjustable seat.

Learn more at chandleraz.gov/**passports**.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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U.S. Rep. Greg Stanton (D-Mesa) was in the chamber with the Chandler City Council for an Oct. 15 presentation associated with a recently awarded $1 million federal grant to support the Chandler Flex transportation program. In front, from the left, are Councilmember Christine Ellis, senior transportation planner Nancy Jackson, transportation planning manager Jason Crampton, Rep. Stanton and Mayor Kevin Hartke. In back, from the left, are Councilmember Jane Poston, Vice Mayor Angel Encinas and Councilmembers Matt Orlando, O.D. Harris and Jennifer Hawkins. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

Council accepts grant from congressman

A federal funding request was advanced successfully through the federal appropriation process, culminating in the Federal Transit Administration awarding $1 million in grant funding for Chandler on July 20.

Rep. Greg Stanton, who Chandler relies on to move such appropriations through Congress, was at the Chandler City Council's Oct. 15 regular meeting with a giant faux check, representing the $1 million grant.

Read more at tinyurl.com/5n824smm

No decision by council in October on airport runway proposal

A work session, a lengthy discussion and a regular meeting haven't been enough to help the Chandler City Council decide on how it wants to handle its airport runway length situation. With airport staff and the city's main airport advisory in agreement, Chandler Municipal Airport Director Ryan Reeves brought to Council a proposal to extend Chandler's main runway 4R/22L by 680 feet to a length of 5,500 feet.

City Manager John Pombier mentioned, at an Oct. study session, bringing, to a November meeting, ordinances to take action on each of the first two options: amending an ordinance that calls for a bond election or taking the runway proposal to the voters.

Read more at tinyurl.com/57yt59xn

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Nov. 3, 2010:

In observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the city is soliciting donated cell phones for conversion to 911 emergency phones. The "Answer the Call" Cell Phone Donation Drive hopes to collect 150 used cellphones from city employees and the public between now and Nov. 19.



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FOODIE PROFILE

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Chandler pizza spot branches out from neighborhood

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Expanding into the catering business is tough for any restaurant. But Shane's Pizza on 87 in Chandler has already conquered some daunting business challenges.

That's why manager Aly Amster says a strong regular clientele and careful planning and ordering are so important.

"I love that we have so many regular customers," Amster said. "It's like our own community within a community."

Amster left her job at a local Scottsdale business in November 2020 — in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic — to join Shane's in Chandler. That was about two years after owner Shane Noyce had sold his pool cleaning company, Blue Gem services, and bought "Pizza on 87," putting his own name on it.

"He's passionate about this place, and he's someone with integrity," Amster said.

Amster said talking to young children about the dangers of throwing toys is one example of how Noyce cares about customers. Another example would be how customers return; Amster said first-responders, businesspeople, Chandler High and other students and staff and even local residents all eat at Shane's regularly.

The challenges all restaurants have faced in recent years — COVID, supply chain issues, and, in 2025 and 2026, outbreak after outbreak of health concerns affecting everything from chicken to lettuce — are ones Amster says the loyal following helped Shane's endure.





TOP: Manager Aly Amster prepares a "Big A__ Slice" at Shane's Pizza on 87. The neighborhood pizza shop at Arizona Avenue and Knox Road has a following that's allowed it to expand into catering.
BOTTOM: Ellie Reinking cleans a work station at Shane's Pizza on 87. The neighborhood pizza shop at Arizona Avenue and Knox Road has a following that's allowed it to expand into catering.
(Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

Catering of business events and regularly scheduled company meal days are relatively new to Shane's. While intimidating at first, Amster said, especially with the unknowns of dealing with a third party, these added-value services simply require more of the same planning and flexibility restaurants already practice daily.

"One arrangement we just started recently isn't too much different from Uber Eats," Amster said. "Any new thing is stressful at first, but we settle into it and find a routine that works. You just have to keep a close eye on supplies."

The menu includes some of the expected main entree pizza pies and sides, with bone-in wings being among the popular meals.

Amster even has a side named after her. "Aly's Pepperoni Garlic Knots."

The garlic knots are popular. In a recent online review of Shane's, digital creator and food critic Lorenzo Bean said the restaurant's knots' simplicity is its strength.

"You can't go wrong with good bread, garlic and melted butter," Bean said.

The signature item is probably the "Big A__ Slice," as stated on the menu. The giant single slices of pizza are another popular item.

Amster said much has been made out of how the restaurant life is tough work and it's tough to succeed, but there are rewarding times, too.

"It can be stressful, but it doesn't need to be difficult," Amster said. "We've been fortunate and we keep doing whatever it takes to make customers want to come back."

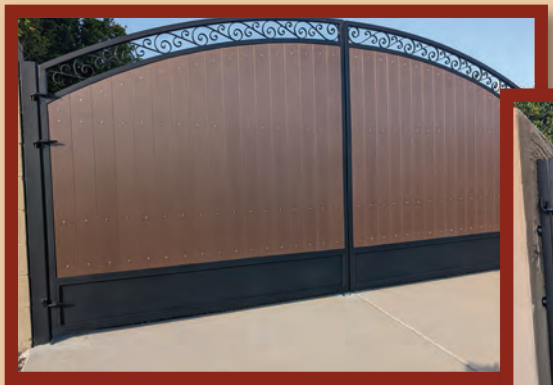
The shop is at 1368 N. Arizona Ave., just south of Knox Road in north Chandler. Contact the staff atpizzaon87@gmail.com or by calling 480-732-0087.

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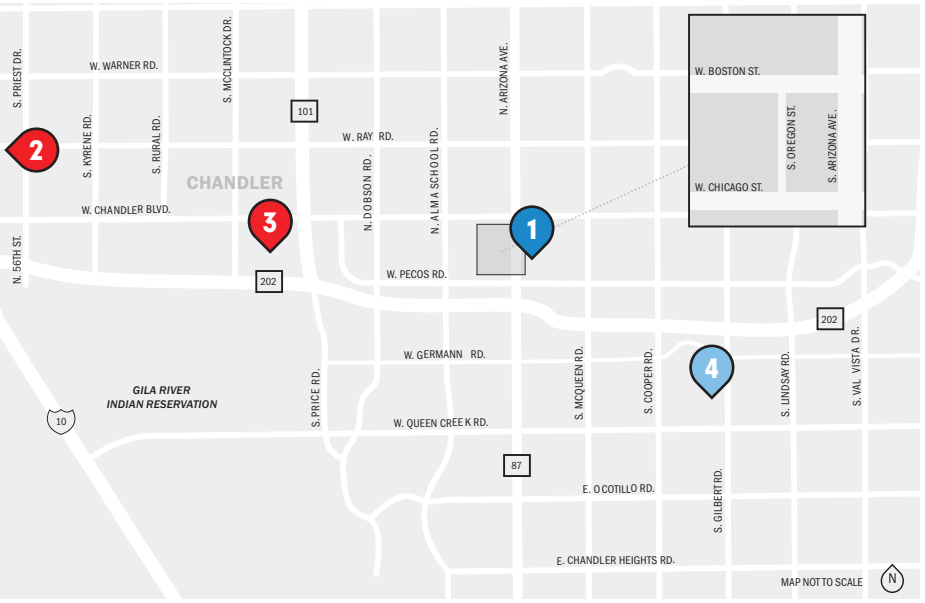
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BUSINESS MOVES



Compiled by Jason Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

OPENINGS

1 **Tap N Taco** has opened its second location, and first in Arizona, in the former Serrano's location in downtown Chandler, at 141 S. Arizona Avenue, No. 2, between Chandler City Hall and Boston Street. The menu includes $2 street tacos of many varieties, including asada, al pastor, barbacoa, chicken, sausage, potato, beer-battered shrimp or cod. Loaded fries, quesadillas, nachos, and baked potatoes are available as well. Birria is only offered Mondays and Tuesdays, in taco form or over fries, a baked potato or nachos. The full bar includes plenty of tap brews and mixed drinks. Hours include opening at 11 a.m., seven days per week, closing at 9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, at 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 8 p.m. on Sundays. Learn more at tapntaco.com or on Instagram: @tapntaco

COMING SOON

2 **North Italia** is set to open its seventh Arizona restaurant in Chandler on Wednesday, Nov. 11 on the south side of Ray Road, just east of I-10, in the former Z'Tejas building. The Scottsdale-founded modern Italian chain offers many of the expected appetizers, including crispy eggplant Parmesan and white truffle garlic bread, fresh pasta and seafood entrees, plus pizzas, salads, non-alcoholic drinks, cocktails, sangria and many wines. To learn more, go online to northitalia.com/locations/chandler or find @eatnorthitalia on Instagram.

3 **La Popular Cocina Mexicana** is the latest addition to Chandler Fashion Center's culinary and northwest-lot makeover, bringing n what it calls an innovative, gourmet dining experience. Set to open at the shopping center in fall 2027, La Popular will offer craft cocktails and many artisan spirits. A few favorites could end up being the watermelon hibiscus margarita and Forbidden Paradise Mule. Signature food highlights include ribeye tacos, ahi tuna tostadas, chicken mole poblano and churros. Monitor lapopularcdmx.com/locations for updates on the opening date.

NEW HIRE

4 **Gameday Men's Health Chandler** has hired nurse practitioner Christi Nance as its new clinic director. Nance brings a background in emergency medicine, hospital leadership and hormone health to the Chandler clinic, located in a South Gilbert Road business park, near Chandler's airport. Nance began her nursing career in 2008 and later served as a flight nurse in the U.S. Air Force, also managing the emergency department of a Washington State facility and serving as chief nursing officer at an Idaho specialty hospital. Learn more at tinyurl.com/4hjsdpb5

ANNIVERSARY

5 **Liminal Public Relations & Communications** has celebrated its one-year anniversary. Chandler resident Samantha DeRose and Robin Graber launched the Valley-based firm in September after years of working together in the agency world. The pair have built a client roster that they state spans architecture, construction, real estate, building products, technology and nonprofits, with clients and projects throughout the Valley. Services include media relations, thought leadership, applying for consideration on award, ranking and recognition lists, arranging speaking opportunities, media and spokesperson training,

• See **Business Moves** on page **9**



TAP N TACO



NORTH ITALIA



LA POPULAR COCINA



CHRISTI NANCE



LIMINAL

BUSINESS MOVES

• From page 8

reputation and issues management and content writing. Learn more at liminalprc.com.

6 **Optimize U's** lone Arizona franchise is celebrating its second anniversary at 610 N. Alma School Road, Suite 48, Chandler. The hormone and peptide therapy clinic, owned by Leslie Karr, an Air Force veteran and nurse practitioner, opened in November 2024. Optimize U is geared toward men ages 30 and older and women navigating perimenopause and menopause through HRT memberships and peptide therapy. Lab work takes place ahead of any treatment. Walk-ins are welcome. Learn more about the clinic by calling 480-674-0457 or visiting optimizeucenters.com/locations/chandler-arizona.



OPTIMIZE U



DICTIONARY DISTRIBUTION

From the left, Bill Giessing, Roger Edmonds, and Gary and Bonnie Whiting have participated in the RCSL Dictionary Project for 23 consecutive years. (Submitted by Honora Norton/Rotary Club of Sun Lakes)

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East Valley women's group achieves 5-star recognition

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

For the first time, the Southeast Valley Chapter of the American Association of University Women has been recognized for achieving milestones required in the national organization's Five-Star Program.

The program, launched in 2020, directs branches to numerous stretch goals to help them continually improve their local effectiveness, according to a news release.

"This recognition reflects the many hours of dedicated work and thoughtful planning our Branch Board of Directors and individual members put into ensuring our local efforts are meaningful and worthwhile," Mary Kenny, current branch advisor who served as president for the past two years, stated in the news release. "Through college scholarship fundraising, STEM class sponsorships, educational programs and more, we are continually striving to make a difference in the lives of girls and women in the East Valley community and beyond. Achieving Five-Star recognition tells us we're on the right track."

The letter from national AAUW noted the achievement reflects a commitment to AAUW's mission to advance gender equity for women and girls, thoughtful branch leadership, strong programming and engagement, effective advocacy and communications, and the work needed to sustain a thriving affiliate, the release states.

Active for more than 36 years, Southeast Valley AAUW is one of 1,000 branches across the U.S. It is open to those in Chandler, Gilbert and Sun Lakes who hold an associate or higher degree or equivalent from a qualified educational institution.

Those looking for a way to make a difference, meet other accomplished and interesting women, and have fun together are invited to join. For more information, email AAUW.SEV.AZ@gmail.com.

Holidays

• From page 1

about the hottest parts of usually July and August when summer vacationers have decided Arizona isn't the place to be. "The key is to find ways to get to the fourth quarter and to be ready to do more gift baskets and things like that, and be staffed for when the snowbirds and every year-round Valley people come to our historic square."

The McCreerys also try to stay prepared throughout the year with a diversity of product lines: their confectionery-focused kitchen churns out many types of fresh treats, though there are also a wide range of wine, food and gifts throughout the San Marcos Place store, many focused on Arizona's landscape or wildlife, with many being made in-state.

"When we first went into business in 2003, I really was focused on Arizona being more than scorpions in lollipops and salsa," McCreery said, though the store embraces some better-known Arizona products, such as locally made salsa.

Locally-unique elements to a business, such as D'Vine being one of the few Valley spots with wine flights at its wine lounge and bottle shop, are needed as well, she said.



Kristina Lies reads labels on nail polish at Blue Bliss Nails & Spa in west Chandler. Being close to Chandler Fashion Center, the shop keeps many of the same services and products it offers all year, but also adds some specials and some decor for the holiday season. (Independent Newsmedia/Jason W. Brooks)

MORE ONLINE
See more Business news at yourvalley.net.

Boutique on Boston, located around the corner from D'Vine Gourmet, is the McCreery's other business, focusing on women's fashion and jewelry.

Partnerships with local and Arizona businesses, like Chandy's Candies, are part of how the McCreerys gear up for the holidays.

"A rising tide lifts all boats," McCreery said of some partners being somewhat in competition with D'Vine Gourmet. "It takes working together to promote Arizona."

McCreery said staying active with local business organizations, communicating with the city and the Chandler Chamber of Commerce and letting them know about needs, and donating to charities like AZCEND are important parts of staying engaged.

"Those relationships are important for both the slow and busy times," McCreery said. "We survived some economic downturns, COVID-19, supply-chain crises, parking situations, and now the (multi-year) remodel of A.J. Chandler Park. But we're still here — and we didn't do it in a vacuum."

Other businesses around Chandler have more modest ways of visibly adjusting for the holidays, beyond staffing and stocking up. Kristina Lies, manager of Blue Bliss Nails & Spa in west Chandler, showed how she decorated the front of the salon in a Thanksgiving or late-fall motif.

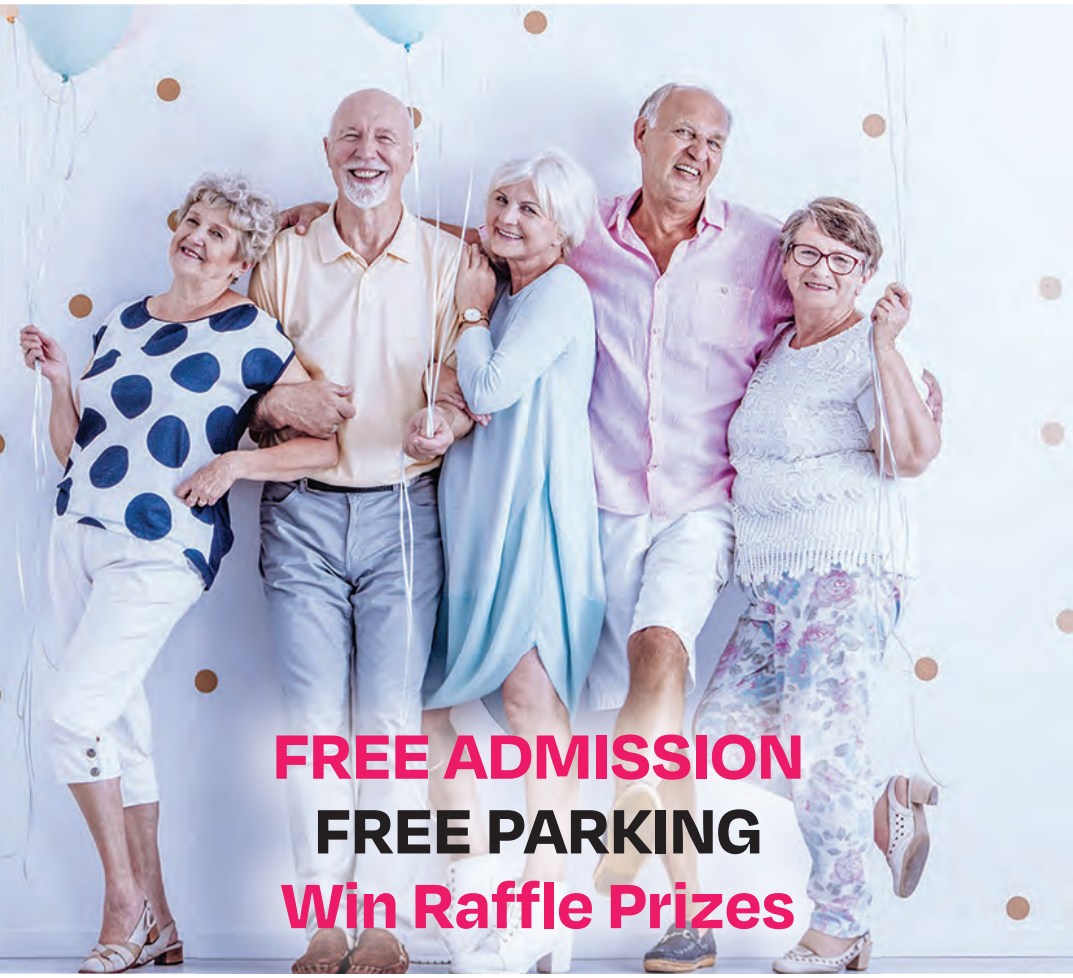
Blue Bliss' new owner, Leanne Hilderman, said she and her staff are still discussing ways to incorporate new seasonal treatments that involve scents like gingerbread and candy canes.

"Mostly, we want to create a warm, welcoming space where people can take a little break from the holiday rush," Hilderman said.

John Diaz, spokesperson for the Chandler Fashion Center, said extended hours and some all-ages events, such as having Santa Claus in the mall to greet everyone, are ways everyone will know it's the holiday season.

"Preparations really pick up after Halloween," Diaz said.

2027
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RELIGION EVENTS

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Choral group's annual show set for Dec. 12

The Vocal Connection Chorus invites Chandler-area women of all ages to join a holiday guest chorus for the annual "Jingle Bell Jam." Rehearsals will take place from 6:45-8 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30 in Building B of Christ's Community Church, 1550 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler. The dress rehearsal is Dec. 7. Participants are asked to attend at least three regular rehearsals plus the final dress rehearsal. The performance is at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, also at the church. Local women and girls age 12 and older, of all voice ranges and experience levels, are invited to perform. For registration details or more information about joining the guest chorus, visit vocalconnection.org or email GuestInfo@vocalconnection.org

Free Nov. 15 concert is a salute to veterans

A free concert by Valley Opera is set for 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15, at Risen Savior Lutheran Church, 23620 S. Alma School Road, on the southwest corner of Alma School and Chandler Heights roads.

There is no charge for admission, though donations will be appreciated, as organizers raise money for veterans in need.

Visit valleyopera.org for more information or to donate.

Visit risensavioraz.org/events to view a full calendar of events at Risen Savior.

Church's financial literacy Zoom focuses on estate planning

Sun Valley Community Church partnering with the organization Financial Planning Ministry to offer a practical, secure, and easy-to-understand estate planning online workshop designed to remove confusion around wills and trusts.

The 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18 online 90-minute workshop, conducted using Zoom, is also meant to help everyone take a wise step toward caring for loved ones.

The workshop is valuable for anyone, regardless of age or income level and focuses on clarity, confidence and good stewardship.

Free registration is required and can be done at tinyurl.com/bdf9ufuj

Learn more at info@sunvalleycc.com or by calling 480-632-8920.



The Vocal Connection Chorus invites Chandler-area women of all ages to join a holiday guest chorus for the annual "Jingle Bell Jam." Rehearsals will take place from 6:45-8 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30 in Building B of Christ's Community Church, 1550 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler. The dress rehearsal is Dec. 7 and the performance is at 4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, also at the church. (Courtesy of Vocal Connection Chorus)

Save the Dates

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INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

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Chandler • February 23, 2027 • Sun Lakes Country Club
Peoria • March 25, 2027 • Westbrook Village
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Sun City • May 3, 2027 • Sundial Recreation Center

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Teachers

• From page 1

sources and experiences that often can't be funded through other resources, such as a campus or district budget."

Hehl explained Cash For Classrooms is an annual community fundraiser for educator-requested projects at CUSD schools.

District educators apply for grants of as much as $3,000 to enhance learning and engagement. Then, the foundation runs a C4C community fundraiser, with support from CUSD schools and staff, to fund district-wide grants.

The number of winners is based on the amount raised. Grant proposals are reviewed and rated by foundation board members and CUSD site leaders.

Hehl said the criteria include how well the project aligns with CUSD-approved curriculum and state standards, how students will benefit, the number of students impacted and whether there are other funding sources available for each proposal.

The week of Oct. 19, the foundation scheduled a weeklong "Woohoo Patrol" to surprise the winners. That group is typically CEF staff and board members and CUSD staff and sometimes students.

"We surprise teachers in their classrooms with cheering and noisemakers before presenting the grant," Hehl said.

Hehl said unlike some state or nonprofit grants, which may have specific funding priorities, Cash for Classrooms gives flexibility to propose creative projects based on student needs, while aligning with district and state standards.

"Unlike programs like DonorsChoose, teachers apply for grants, which are reviewed and awarded, rather than crowdfunding individual projects," Hehl explained.

MORE ONLINE
Find education stories online at yourvalley.net.

This year, the fundraiser portion raised more than $54,000 and matching support from the foundation brought the total to $104,618 to teachers and counselors. Another $7,000 was awarded directly to schools.

This year's 69 Cash For Classrooms grants were from 39 different CUSD schools and were chosen from among 98 applications.

This years grants included a TouchChat program for non-verbal students, wellness spaces, musical instruments, theater production, professional broadcasting equipment and supplies for career activities, such as cooking, a student-run post office, gardening, and recycling projects.

Other annual foundation programs include specialized grants, the Lifelong Learning Staff Scholarships that are primarily funded through Subaru Superstore of Chandler's Share the Love campaign, student scholarships and the Winner's Choice Raffle / IMPACT Scholarships that have a new vehicle or $20,000 as the prize.

CUSD Governing Board Vice President Barb Mozdzen praised those who donated to the fundraiser.

"We thank the community for their donations and helping enrich experiences for our students," Mozdzen said at the board's Oct. 21 meeting.

The full list of 2026 Cash For Classrooms recipients can be found by clicking here: chandleredfoundation.org/what-we-do/2026-cash-for-classrooms-grants.html







TOP: Carlson Elementary counselor Tina Thelen shows her certificate as a recipient of one of the 69 Chandler Education Foundation's Cash For Classrooms "Woohoo Patrol" grants this year. Nicole Hehl, of the foundation, right, looks on. (Submitted by Chandler Education Foundation)
MIDDLE: Galveston Elementary School kindergarten teacher Saira Urbina raises her hands in celebration of receiving one of the 69 Chandler Education Foundation Cash for Classroom grants this year. On the left, holding Urbina's certificate, is Nicole Hehl of the foundation.
BOTTOM: Weinberg Gifted Academy fifth-grade teacher Colleen Roberts holds up her grant certificate as Nicole Hehl, of the Chandler Education Foundation, left, shakes a tambourine as part of the "Woohoo Patrol." Roberts' proposal was one of the 69 classroom grants approved by the foundation this year.


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Home sales market stable, slowdown still noticeable

By Jason W. Brooks
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Chandler home sales numbers in September reflect a market that remains relatively balanced, but with a noticeable slowdown in buyer activity, according to analysis from the board president of Phoenix Realtors.

Sammy Glassman says while overall volume of sales has declined, year-over-year, from September 2025, Chandler is not taking the hit in the way other parts of the Valley are — and without some of the alarming statistics found in some Valley submarkets that month.

"The biggest standout is pending sales — down 47%, even as closed sales increased slightly by 1.6%," Glassman said. "That divergence suggests the market performed reasonably well, based on contracts written earlier, while more recent buyer activity has softened."

Inventory increased modestly by 2.4%, with supply rising slightly to three months' worth, Glassman said.

That gives buyers more choices and negotiating leverage," she said. "But Chandler is still not experiencing the inventory buildup seen in some neighboring markets."

Glassman points out that sellers and agents are at least continuing to gauge the market well, short-term, as they are receiving an average of 98% of list price is unchanged from last year.

But the median sales price remained essentially flat at $549,500, down just 0.6%.

One encouraging statistic is days on market, Glassman said, which fell 12.5% to 63 days.

"Homes that are positioned correctly are still selling," she said.

Glassman said buyers are being selective and affordability continues to influence decision-making.

"Overall, Chandler appears stable, but the significant decline in pending sales is something to watch," she said. "Sellers should expect competition and price strategically from the beginning, while buyers may find more opportunity to negotiate favorable terms — and concessions."

Phoenix Realtors also reported that across the Valley in September, the single-family housing market held onto year-to-date sales gains through September, but the month brought a sharper slowdown in new contract activity.

Closed sales dropped 4.9%, and new listings dropped 3.7% in September this year compared to last year, but pending sales plummeted 40.1%.





TOP: Chandler home sales numbers in September reflect a market that remains relatively balanced, but with a noticeable slowdown in buyer activity, according to analysis from the board president of Phoenix Realtors. (Arianna Grainey/ Special to Independent Newsmedia)

LEFT: Sammy Glassman

HOUSING BY THE NUMBERS

Chandler's September 2026 market data With percent year-over-year change from September 2025

New listings: 234 (-7.5%)

Pending sales: 106 (-47.0%)

Closed sales: 195 (+1.6%)

Days on market until sale: 63 (-12.5%)

Median sales price: $549,500 (-0.6%)

Average sales price: $650,565 (-2.2%)

Percent of list price received: 98.0% (0.0%)

Inventory of homes for sale: 598 (+2.4%)

Months supply of inventory: 3 (+3.4%)

Source: Phoenix Realtors

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Patricia Hinds, a Gold Star Mother whose son died while serving in the Marines in 2019, will be the speaker when the Jewish War Veterans Post 619 meets Sunday, Nov. 22 in Sun Lakes. (Submitted by Jewish War Vets Post 619)

GOLD STAR MOTHER TO ADDRESS JEWISH VETS GROUP

Jewish War Veterans Copper State Post 619 will host a special guest at a November meeting. Patricia Hinds, president of the Arizona Department of Gold Star Mothers, will be the speaker at the post's Sunday, Nov. 22 gathering. Free lox and bagels, coffee, and doughnuts start at 9:30 a.m. The speaker follows at 10 a.m. To learn about JWV Post 619 and membership opportunities, visit the JWV Facebook page or contact Arthur Uram at 702-884-4175 or via email at uramarthur@gmail.com.

UNIVERSITY WOMEN HOST SPEAKER, ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Southeast Valley Branch of the American Association of University Women welcomes Sarah Lords from the Fresh Start Women's Foundation as guest speaker at its 5:30 p.m. meeting Monday, Nov. 16 at Oakwood Country Club. Prospective members are welcome. More information about attending the Nov. 16 meeting, the chapter's local scholarship program and joining AAUW is available by emailing AAUW.SEV.AZ@gmail.com.



Dog lovers and well-mannered, leashed dogs are invited to come out and play at Woofstock from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21 at Tumbleweed Park, 2250 S. McQueen Road in Chandler. (Submitted by city of Chandler)

CITY'S OUTDOOR FALL/WINTER CONCERT SERIES RETURNS

The Sonoran Sunset Series returns to Veterans Oasis Park in south Chandler in another season of free outdoor concerts. The Nov. 19 performer will be Dean Nelson. Veterans Oasis Park is located at 4050 E. Chandler Heights Road, adjacent to the city's Nature Center. For more details about the series, call 480-782-2890 or visit chandleraz.gov/NatureCenter.

SENIOR LIVING HOSTS VETS DAY EVENTS IN S. CHANDLER

A "special gathering" is scheduled from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Cadence Chandler senior living in South Chandler.

Cadence Chandler is at 100 W. Queen Creek Road, on the northwest corner of Queen Creek and Arizona Avenue.

A news release states the purpose of the event is to celebrate the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our country.

Connect with neighbors, share stories, and discover how to proudly support veterans in the community every day. All veterans, friends, and community members are warmly welcome, according to the release.

Learn more about the facility at tinyurl.com/2hw4zjvk



Fuel Fest is a Dec. 5 automotive celebration founded by the late actor Paul Walker's brother. Gates at Firebird Motorsports Park will be open 1–8 p.m. Admission tickets start at $40; get more information or buy tickets at fuelfest.com. (Submitted by Fuel Fest)

CITY'S 'WOOFSTOCK' EVENT IS SATURDAY, NOV. 21

Dog lovers and well-mannered, leashed dogs are invited to come out and play at Woofstock from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21 at Tumbleweed Park, 2250 S. McQueen Road in Chandler.

Pet adoptions, a free doggie treat bar while supplies last and an interactive agility course will be part of the event, along with demonstrations at various times throughout the day, Chandler Police K9 unit demonstrations, a flyball tournament for viewing, pet caricature drawings and portraits, pet psychic readings and the Puparazzi photo contest with entries due Nov. 15.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/satersrs

FUELFEST SET FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 5 AT FIREBIRD TRACK

FuelFest, an automotive celebration founded by late actor Paul Walker's brother, returns to the Chandler area on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Gates at Firebird Motorsports Park will be open from 1–8 p.m. Admission tickets start at $40 per person, and kids 12 and younger are free.

For more information or to buy tickets, go to fuelfest.com.

YOUR EVENTS, PLEASE

We welcome your events for our neighborhood To-Do List page. Please send the following for publication in our calendar: name of the event, time, date and location with address and if there is a cost to attend.
Email us: **aznews@iniusa.org**

IN EVENTS

The Independent will host a senior expo Jan. 6, 2027 at Central Arizona College in Apache Junction. Businesses wishing to participate may reach out to the sales team.
Email us: **azad@iniusa.org**

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Primary Care is Getting a Makeover in Chandler. And it's About Time.

Longer appointments, less waiting, and no fees. Corner Health is rethinking how primary care works in Arizona

Finding a primary care provider close to home shouldn't be this hard. Yet, nearly one in five adults in the state doesn't have a personal doctor or healthcare provider, according to 2024 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. For those who do, getting an appointment can mean waiting weeks or months, only to spend a few rushed minutes discussing their health concerns.

A growing network of local providers thinks Arizonans deserve better, and they're working with Corner Health to build a different kind of primary care practice to prove it.

Through Corner Health, more than 100 local practices are putting the focus back on the patient-provider relationship, including several right here in Chandler.

Their approach? Fewer patients. Longer appointments. And more time to actually listen.

Across the Corner Health network, appointments average 34 minutes and new-patient visits average 40 minutes. Instead of racing through a packed schedule, providers have time to ask questions, understand their patients' concerns and develop a plan together.

While this type of personalized healthcare is often associated with concierge medicine and expensive fees, practices on the Corner Health network accept major insurance plans, including Medicare, without requiring a membership fee.

The model gives highly vetted, experienced nurse practitioners the freedom to own and operate their practices, while Corner Health handles the behind-the-scenes work. Providers get to spend more time caring for patients and building lasting relationships instead of getting bogged down in paperwork and corporate red tape.

Meet Your Neighborhood Primary Care Providers in Chandler.

These locally owned practices on the Corner Health network are welcoming new patients:

Deanna Wright, APRN, FNP-C
Eros Medical
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Chandler, AZ 85226
Book an appointment:

Huguette Kenebantu, PMHNP-BC, FNP-C, DNP
Healing Hands Integrative Care
3075 W Ray Rd, Ste 200, Chandler,
AZ 85226
Book an appointment:

Mary Boontung, FNP-C
K&K Health & Wellness
4050 S Arizona Ave, Ste L2,
Chandler, AZ 85248
Book an appointment:

Services vary by practice but may include preventative care, annual wellness visits, chronic condition management and women's health. Appointments across the network are typically available in under two days.

To find additional providers, visit CornerHealth.com.





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Rosie, left, and George enjoy their favorite pastime. Independent Newsmedia journalist Janet Perez loves her dogs.

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Maricopa Community Colleges and Chandler-Gilbert Community College officials welcomed Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs to an Oct. 6 ribbon-cutting for the Future48 Aerospace and Defense Workforce Accelerator. From the left are Valerie Jones, Dr. Kimberly Britt, Kolu Wilson, CGCC President Dr. C.J. Wurster, Gov. Hobbs, Dr. Steven Bloomberg, Dr. Linda Thor, Marie Sullivan and Dr. Tom Nerini. (Courtesy of Maricopa Community Colleges)

Governor, college officials open defense, aerospace program

Maricopa Community Colleges and Chandler-Gilbert Community College officials welcomed Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs to an Oct. 6 ribbon-cutting for a new program. They were also on hand to officially celebrate the grand opening of the Future48 Aerospace and Defense Workforce Accelerator, built mainly with a $6.4 million investment from the Commerce Authority. Read more at tinyurl.com/399md7se

Health organization, Chandler school partner for 'Safety Town'

Banner Health, in partnership with Champion Schools Chandler, hosted the interactive injury-prevention program "Safety Town" for local elementary students on Oct. 19. Champion Schools' McQueen Road campus was transformed into a mini-city, according to a news release, complete with colorful pop-up buildings, sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic signals designed to teach critical lifelong safety skills. Read more at tinyurl.com/3z3ps4c6

Land acknowledgement still a topic after its approval

Nearly a full month after the Chandler Unified Governing Board voted to have a land acknowledgement video played at both board meetings and district graduation ceremonies, it's still a topic at least a few parents' rights advocates brought up publicly. About six of the public-input speakers at CUSD's Oct. 7 meeting spoke about the land acknowledgement video that's now played at district events. All were against it and urged the board to reconsider it. Read more at tinyurl.com/bdcjebmt





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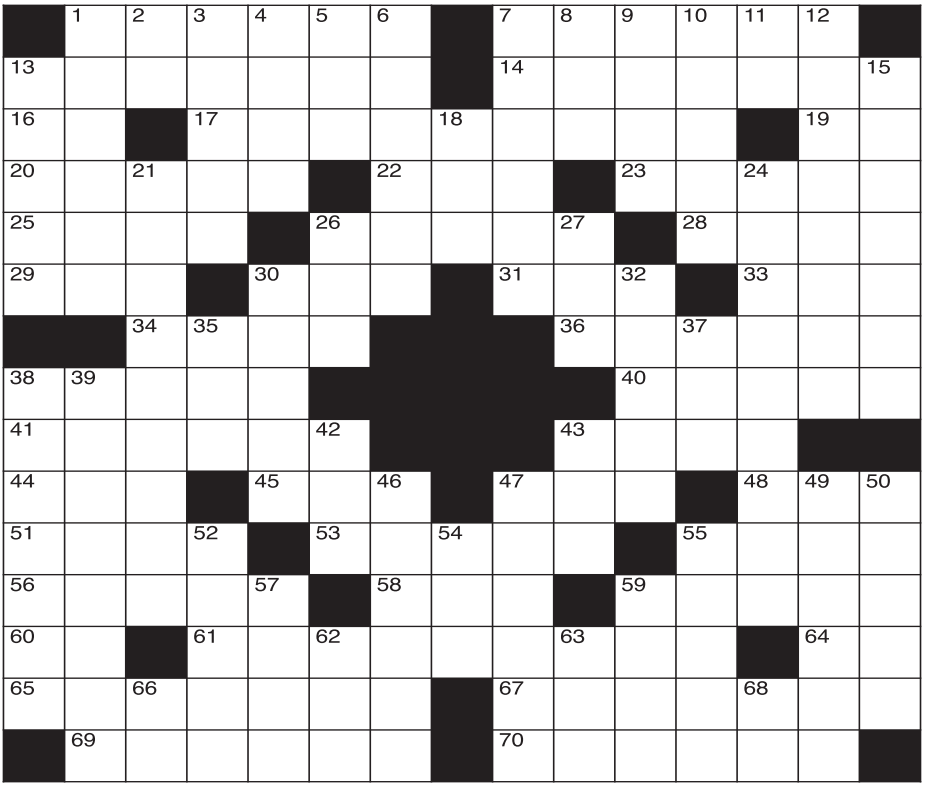


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23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

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2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
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52. Inauthentic person
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■	S	E	R	A	P	E	■	T	R	I	A	G	E	■

Miscellaneous



Butcher's Deluxe Package

2 Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
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Miscellaneous



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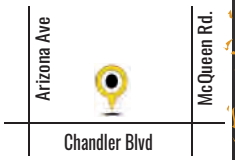
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BIRRIA COMBO #1 (3 BIRRIA TACOS + CONSOME + DRINK)
$14 (REG. $17)

Tuesday
STREET TACO TUESDAY
STREET TACOS
(ANY MEAT. ALL DAY.
EXCLUDES SURF & TURF)
$2 (EACH)

Wednesday
BURRITO MADNESS
ANY BURRITO
(CHOICE OF MEAT, INCLUDES BIRRIA OR REGULAR BURRITO. NO DRINK.)
$10 (EACH)

Thursday
THIRSTY THURSDAY
FOUNTAIN DRINK OR AGUA FRESCA WITH PURCHASE OF ANY ENTRÉE.
$1

Friday
FIESTA FRIES
LOADED FRIES
(BIRRIA OR REGULAR MEATS.)
$10 (REG. $13)