

**FEB 10-23, 2024 • VOL. 34, NO. 773**

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# WRANGLER NEWS

**Safety  
Corridor**  
**Strict  
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**VISION  
ZERO  
TEMPE**

**Safety  
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**VISION  
ZERO  
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**Randy  
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Fire Station #3

## **SAFETY CAMPAIGN AIMS AT REDUCING ROADWAY CARNAGE**

Details, Page 3

Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

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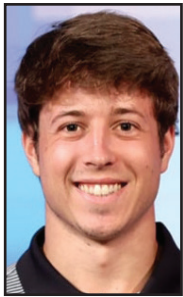
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## HOPING THAT 'VISION ZERO' SAFETY ZONES WILL CUT CITY'S HISTORY OF DEATH, INJURY

By Andrew Lwowski



Andrew

Although stricter enforcement with added police patrols so far doesn't seem to be more visible than usual, Tempe police are hoping the appearance of so-called Safety Corridor warnings

along four of the city's major thoroughfares will help reduce the tally of injury and fatal accidents.

The messaging, displayed on banners hung from concurrent light poles in the selected areas, is designed to cut down on accidents.

"In 2023, there were 50 serious-injury collisions on the streets of Tempe; of those, 24 people died from their injuries," said Lt. Michael Hayes of the Tempe Police Department.

In 2018, police set a goal for Tempe to become the first city in the country with zero traffic-related fatalities. The project, prototyped as

Operation Safe Roads, represented a collaboration between Tempe PD and traffic engineers using analytics of the areas seeing the most collisions.

Tempe Vice Mayor Jennifer Adams, who was helped lead the initiative's development, says it demonstrates that Tempe is making strides when it comes to public safety on our streets.

A resident of the Buena Vista Ranchos community, Adams says her concerns revolve around personal observation, as well as from people she knows elsewhere.

"I know we here in BVR hear it almost nightly, but street racing has been a huge concern all over the Valley.

"On any given night, 50-200 street racers can move through 2- 4 different cities with preplanned routes, conducting intersection takeovers or other street racing activities.

"Often, the number of street racers exceeds what Tempe, and many jurisdictions, have in their entire patrol division.

She notes that Tempe PD is working closely with Phoenix PD and the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Street Racing Task Force to help combat these issues.

Their strategy is multifaceted, but includes these tenets:

1. A multi-jurisdictional approach to garner enough resources and ensure safety
2. Good intelligence to effectively direct the resources
3. Strict enforcement once the issue is identified
4. Aggressive prosecution

"I'm proud to report that these efforts have resulted in 259 total street-racing related charges in 2023."

Most charges, she noted, were for excessive speeding. Reckless driving

accounted for 62 of the charges.

"Our attempts to combat street racing also proactively addresses the issue of loud noise from mufflers. Many of the vehicles causing excessive noise are modified to do so as part of the street racing culture.

"By proactively working street racing issues, we are also working with the same vehicles that cause noise problems in our neighborhood."

Between Jan. 15 and March 15, anyone pulled over for a traffic violation in Tempe will receive a ticket —no warning. There also will be an increase in digital radar speed signs around the City.

Catherine Hollow, of the city's Engineering and Transportation Department, said a review of Tempe's so-called Safety Corridors uncovered conditions that helped city staff identify areas where added messaging might be beneficial.

"Traffic engineers review each active Safety Corridor for needed updates, such as outdated signage, faded pavement markings or necessary adjustments to traffic signal timings," Hollow noted.

It was these areas that were thus flagged with large yellow banners on streetlights, alerting drivers to the Safety Corridor designation.

At the same time, Tempe PD expanded the mission of Vision Zero by adding more safety corridors along with better street signs, lighting and education emphasizing safer driving habits.

This year's efforts will be active in four different corridors that will change every three months, a modification from previous years in which active corridors remained in place for the entire year.

Vision Zero is a strategy designed

to help ensure safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all, according to planners.

First implemented in Sweden in the 1990s, the approach has been proven successful in other nations — and is said to be gaining momentum in American communities.

It was launched in Tempe in 2018 by then-Mayor Mark Mitchell.

According to ADOT director John Halikowski, in 2017, it was implemented "to address aggressive and impaired driving, speeding and lack of seat belt use..." In 2022, ADOT got rid of the program, but Tempe did not.

While enforcement is designed to be part of the initiative, the slowed success of PD recruitment efforts recently is said to have temporarily reduced the number of officers available for that assignment.

### Safety Corridor 2024 locations

- Rural Road – 6th Street to Playa del Norte Drive
- University Drive – 52nd Street to Hardy Drive
- McClintock Drive – Baseline Road to Guadalupe Road
- Elliot Road – Interstate 10 to Kyrene Road

*Tempe resident Andrew Lwowski attended Waggoner Elementary, Kyrene Middle School and Corona del Sol HS. He holds a degree in journalism from the Walter Cronkite School at ASU.*



# Enlightened vision for area grads who attend MCC

Incoming dean vows to reinforce campus' focus on inclusion, diversity



Dr. Jeannetta Hollins: A new era unfolds at MCC

— Photo by Rey Covarrubias Jr., MCC Mesa Legend

By Barbi-Walker Walsh

Students from Corona del Sol and Marcos de Niza high schools may get a glimpse of a new era at Mesa Community College as Dr. Jeannetta Hollins takes the helm as the school's vice president of student affairs.

Among her impressive tenure in higher education, Hollins brings decades of experience, spanning roles from adviser to dean. Say her advocates: She epitomizes a dedication to student success, embracing diversity, and fostering inclusion.

Hollins' commitment to her work represents what has been called a visionary drive for innovation and collaboration.

"I'm pleased to be joining MCC," said Hollins. "I look forward to enhancing the student experience, focusing on diversity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging."

Hollins has a doctorate in educational leadership from



Barbi

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Old Dominion University, which she says equips her to tackle the challenges and opportunities facing community college students.

It is anticipated that her strategic oversight in student affairs and enrollment management will guide MCC teams in providing essential student services and programs.

"Today's college-aged students face various challenges, including mental health issues and insecurities," Hollins said.

Affording college altogether is another stressor facing students.

For those considering MCC, there are numerous options for students with limited financial resources. Prospective students can maximize their experience by tapping into available financial support, including scholarships through FAFSA and the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation.

From smaller class sizes and smoother transitions from high school, attending a community college has both financial and educational benefits for students, said Kim Hilgers, assistant superintendent for teaching & learning at Tempe Union High School District.

These experiences can contribute to a higher retention rate and offer a more personalized

experience for students, according to educators knowledgeable in the transition

. "The relationship between Tempe Union and local community colleges, such as MCC, is crucial," Hilgers said. She also points out that TUHSD has informational events and meetings with MCC representatives to help students and families navigate their future education.

Another tool for prospective students is MCC's Career Coach online interactive tool, created to help students explore career options and align academic paths with their interests and goals.

It helps provide insights into wages, employment outlooks, skills and education requirements, hopefully empowering users to make informed decisions about their futures.

"Education in recent years has changed with the integration of technology and virtual learning, and societal matters impacting institutional decision-making," Hollins said.

Despite the continued rising cost of a college education, the value of a degree remains high, with graduates enjoying better earnings and career opportunities.

Educational delivery is evolving rapidly, with online learning expanding access and flexibility,

particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. These advances offer more opportunities to more students, including alternatives to a traditional university four-year degree. MCC currently offers bachelor's degree programs in Data Analytics and Programming or Early Childhood Education - Dual Language, with more said to be in the pipeline.

Regardless of the choice of attendance, community college offers transformative opportunities for growth.

"Community college is a transformational environment designed to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills," Hollins points out.

The overall conclusion is that, in navigating an evolving landscape of higher education, balancing affordability, quality and relevance can be crucial to ensuring equitable access and meeting the demands of a changing job market.

*Longtime Tempe resident Barbi Walker-Walsh is a graduate the Walter Cronkite communications program and the School of Journalism at NYU. Her son attends Corona del Sol High School.*

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# VIEWPOINTS

## About our neighborhood

# Why we believe in it, and why we tell stories about people you know

By Don Kirkland

A cardinal rule I learned while working with publisher Chuck Wahlheim at one of the big L.A. dailies back in the early '70s was to weave into stories, whenever we could, a strong sense of community. Some stories, of course, were too farflung for that. A mom & pop flavor didn't fit very well when we were writing about a bridge collapse in, say, Podunk, Iowa.



Don

Still, it was a dictum that stayed with me long after I relocated to Arizona, particularly after Chuck, who also had left California, became publisher of the Mesa Tribune, and asked me to come on board as executive editor.

In the beginning of my tenure there, following that homegrown, hometown approach to news was easy.

After all, the Tribune's longtime owner/publisher, a guy named Ward Calvert, was a high-profile local character who hung out with the city's main bigwigs. His afternoons weren't spent very often under deadline pressures involving the next day's paper but steering his way, cold brew reportedly in hand, to the 18th hole at Mesa Country Club.

Yes, Ward was definitely a colorful — and certainly memorable — presence in the Mesa of those days, even among the avowed, mostly Mormon, history says, city leaders—including the presumably tee totaling mayor, Wayne Pomeroy, who himself was rumored to sneak away occasionally for a cool diversion.

But Cox Newspapers, the big national chain that owned the Dayton Daily News among big-name others around the country, had a different future in mind for their newest acquisition.

And that, it seemed, involved a strategy of invading The Arizona Republic's turf, city by surrounding city, and ultimately taking the reins as Arizona's top newspaper.

I guess I don't need to tell you how far that campaign went.

But all was not lost, at least not to the Calvert-era readers who insisted that they liked the Tribune of the old days just fine, thank you.

And while the Tribune definitely took a step into modern-day news and feature reporting, it seemed for many years to retain some of the same homespun flavor of its early days.

Thereby, I guess, is the very reason I'm telling this story — not for its historical importance to modern-day journalism but because it provided a template, of sorts, for my launch of the original Warner Wrangler.

No, not a can-toting publisher or a golf-course partner of the mayor, but a longtime news guy who felt that those days of old, when readers could count on their hometown paper for its hometown flavor, were still important.

That's why, I guess, today's Wrangler doesn't try to have something for everybody but rather an offering of news, photos and features about its readers' neighborhood, their neighbors, their nearby schools, businesses, places of worship.

And if you call us about a bridge collapse in Buckeye, we'll tell you to call the Buckeye News-Herald, if such a thing exists. We'll even give you their phone number.

*Don Kirkland, whose connection with Tempe dates back more than 40 years, is the founder and publisher of Wrangler News.*

# First year reflections

By Jane Poston

Chandler Councilmember

My whirlwind first year as a councilmember has been filled with learning, exciting progress for the city and, above all, a

commitment to serve Chandler.

Engaging with the community is the heartbeat of this role.

Meeting residents and businesses, hearing their stories, celebrating their successes and being responsive is a core function of councilmembers. Hearing our community's diverse voices has been an education and an honor.

And while I've been deeply involved in the community for years, my position as councilmember is giving me the chance to view our city from a new perspective.

I take this role very seriously and understanding the nuances of the budget and intricacies of development codes is presenting a new aspect of

Chandler every day. I'll share a few highlights of the past year.

Council and city staff work hard to make sure Chandler is known for its business-friendly policies, and that effort is earning recognition.

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry named Chandler the Best City for Business, citing how our business-friendly tax climate and regulatory policies make it easy and attractive for companies to locate and expand.

Intel's investment of billions in Chandler will produce the most technologically advanced semiconductors in the world.

Numerous advanced manufacturing and semiconductor suppliers have opened new

facilities or expanded operations. We witnessed Scheel's renovate space at Chandler Fashion Center, approved exciting new developments and welcomed new retail ventures and restaurants.

Every choice made in the council chambers directly impacts the lives of those we represent.

We passed ordinances to protect residents' quality of life by mitigating the impact of short-term rentals and data centers, while amending city code to confront the issue of animal cruelty and hoarding.

We lowered property taxes and became the largest Arizona city to pay off our public safety pension system debt.

We adjusted utility rates to make strategic investments in infrastructure and nearly doubled

investments in pavement preservation.

We became the first Arizona city to receive triple-A ratings on bonds backed by property and excise taxes, which saves money on major city improvements.

We rebuilt Chandler's busiest fire station to better serve the demand for emergency services in north Chandler and experienced historically low numbers of serious crimes.

We invested in city employees to retain and attract talented people to serve our community, including unique health screening and wellness programs for first responders.

We implemented our first, ever diversity, equity and inclusion strategic plan, following the adoption

of the city's non-discrimination ordinance.

Whether addressing infrastructure needs, social issues or economic development, the ability to contribute to the betterment of Chandler is a driving force for councilmembers.

It reaffirms the importance of our role in shaping the future of our city.

My first year as a councilmember has been a dynamic and transformative experience. The opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of our residents is what makes this role both demanding and incredibly rewarding.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and look forward to the great things ahead for Chandler.



## Tempe Chamber announces candidate endorsements for March primary

Tempe Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, through interviews and analysis, has voted to endorse four candidates running in the upcoming primary election.

The endorsement was said to be a declaration by the chamber that these candidates understand the interests of the Tempe business community and, if elected, will champion policies supportive of economic and community development.

The endorsed candidates are:

**Corey Woods** – Tempe Mayor (incumbent)

**Nikki Amberg** – Tempe City Council

**Doreen Garlid** – Tempe City Council (incumbent)

**Randy Keating** – Tempe City Council (incumbent)

“Supporting business-friendly candidates is an investment in economic prosperity, job growth, and a thriving community,” said Colin Diaz, chamber president/CEO.

“By endorsing leaders who understand the importance of a conducive business environment, we pave the way for innovation, competitiveness, sustainability and overall success.”

The primary election will be March 12 with a potential general election May 24.

For more information visit [tempe.gov/government/city-clerks-office/election-information](https://tempe.gov/government/city-clerks-office/election-information).

# Corey Woods for Mayor

My first term as Mayor started off at the height of the pandemic. In that time, I learned more about our City than I ever had before. **We are resilient, compassionate, and determined to look out for each other.**

We've created more housing opportunities, strengthened our transportation and bicycle infrastructure, improved our parks, and made our community safer and more sustainable. What I'm most proud of is that we've done this while maximizing efforts to bring resident input into every decision we make.

**I love this city, and I would be honored to have your support to continue serving as your mayor.**

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## Unlicensed transitional homes prompt councilmembers' concern; work advances to find a longterm solution



### Wrangler News Special Report

**S**ober living homes, sometimes operating under the cover of transitional living arrangements, halfway houses or recovery residences, can be a step down from formal substance use programs, say treatment professionals.

However, Tempe and other cities report an increasing number of such homes appearing in neighborhoods without proper licensing.

The homes, it is said, can offer an in-between option for individuals after they complete a treatment program and before they return to their homes and lives.

Such transition opportunities can provide continued support while residents learn to apply their newly learned self-reliance skills to real-life situations while they remain drug- or alcohol-free in a community

environment.

Some let residents stay as long as they wish; others have limits on how long a person can live there. These homes are also not monitored by state licensing agencies because they do not offer formal treatment. However, say Tempe officials, they may be part of coalitions or associations that ensure that the programs follow certain guidelines regarding health, safety, quality and adherence to a model that emphasizes 12-step or other mutual-help group involvement.

As the issue evolves, Tempe says it is exploring the development of several new tools aimed at addressing unlawful sober living homes in the city to reduce victimization and protect neighborhoods.

State investigations into unlawful sober living homes have raised significant concerns regarding the

health, safety and well-being of both vulnerable residents and the broader Tempe community.

Through a multi-department task force convened in June 2023, Tempe has been working to assist state authorities, enforce city codes and ordinances and help residents who have been victimized, including unsheltered people struggling with addiction, among others.

The Tempe City Council, at a mid-January meeting, approved the exploration of several task force recommendations, including the creation of a general business license and ordinance to address excessive calls for service.

The taskforce recommendations include:

- Creating a general business license in the city, similar to other municipalities, to streamline

the process for businesses to operate legally, enhance oversight and regulation and improve communications with businesses.

The city of Surprise implemented this tool and has seen a drop in the number of fraudulent sober living providers.

- Developing a new system to track problem properties and enhance the work of code enforcement and law enforcement. Moving quickly to identify and resolve problems will contribute to the overall improvement of the city's neighborhoods.

- Creating a new ordinance that addresses excessive calls for service at commercial properties. Operators providing unlicensed services or engaged in fraudulent billing are understood to generate more calls for service from law enforcement and a new ordinance would provide

another tool to address problem providers.

In addition, the City Council voiced support for state level change to improve the annual licensure and inspection process through actions such as increasing fines for non-compliance. The city's task force will begin exploring the creation of new tools and return to the City Council in the future with recommendations.

### Get help, report issues

The state has created a dedicated hotline for anyone who has been impacted by the closures of sober living homes. Call 2-1-1 and press 7 to report abuse or get information. More details are also at <https://211arizona.org/mmip>.

To report concerns about sober living homes in Tempe, call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311.



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# COMMUNITY

## So. Tempe business helps kids with life-threatening conditions jump back into good health

Story by Janie Magruder  
Photos by Andrew Lwowski



Janie

**A**xel Alcantar bounced through the front door of Lily's Pad in Tempe on a recent Friday morning and, clad in Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles PJs, beelined to an open, colorful playroom.

There, the 4-year-old could climb on a jungle gym, bang drums at the performance stage, ring up groceries in the market, steer an electric fire truck, or choose from dozens of

other activities in this indoor kids paradise.

"Aside from his bald head," said Axel's mom Heather, "you would never guess this kid is going through what he's going through. He has the best attitude, the best demeanor, and he has so much energy that, to him, he's not even sick."

But Axel is, with a rare form of cancer called Alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma, diagnosed in March 2023 in the muscle network between his right knee and groin. It metastasized to other parts of his body, and after 67 weeks of chemotherapy and 33 rounds of radiation,

Axel is in the maintenance phase of his disease.

Lily's Pad has been a lifesaver for the preschooler and his family and for dozens of immunocompromised children battling cancer, cerebral palsy, congenital heart defects and other conditions.

"It has been such a blessing for us on so many levels," said the Ahwatukee mom who also has an 8-year-old, Maverick.

"It allows Axel to be a kid because everything is clean and safe, and he can play without a mask on. He says to me, 'I want to live here.'"

Located in a strip mall at Southern Avenue and Priest Drive, the 5,300-square-foot suite comprises the playroom, monitored by parents, nursing students and volunteers, a large cafe, and smaller rooms where parents can work, talk or just be.

To qualify, children must be referred by a physician or health care facility, but once they do, the entire family can visit Lily's Pad whenever they like and at no cost. Ninety-minute sessions, with a maximum of 10 children, are scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and some are reserved for



one family at a time.

Temperatures are taken before each session, and after, all surfaces are sanitized with industrial-strength cleaner.

Since opening in August, Lily's Pad has recorded nearly 400 play sessions, including those scheduled by Hope Kids, a Scottsdale-based organization supporting children with cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

Local nursing college students have earned nearly 1,000 clinical hours while gaining an understanding of the needs of these special children and how nonprofits fill gaps in care.

On any given day, younger kids are drawn to remote-controlled dinosaurs that fight each other or take turns careening down the slide, while older children choose from Pop-a-Shot basketball, foosball and air hockey.

"The siblings get forgotten a lot in this, and it's nobody's fault, because you're trying to keep life normal, but you just can't because everything revolves around the child who is sick," Alcantar said.

"Maverick has fun here, meeting other kids, and he feels like his life hasn't totally stopped on a dime."

Lily's Pad is named for Lily Taylor, who at age 3 was diagnosed with high-risk Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in December 2017.

She spent a month in the hospital before beginning 2-1/2 years of outpatient treatment, including chemotherapy which attacked the cancer and her immune system.

Her parents struggled to find ways to keep her occupied, happy and both recovering from the disease and managing the psychological struggles of being isolated. Lily couldn't even go to the park.

Al Taylor, her grandfather, searched high and low for an indoor play center with high protocols for safety.

Finding none, Taylor formed a nonprofit in 2019 with Lily's dad, Brad, and his sister, Dawn Garza.

COVID-19 and other issues delayed the opening of Lily's Pad, but Taylor has been amazed at the generosity of the community in doing so. Architekton of Tempe created the architectural plans pro bono, and other area companies donated work and equipment.

Tempe fire and police donated an electric toy fire truck and toy police car, and various organizations have contributed other toys. Brick Road Coffee in Tempe supplies all the coffee and related supplies for the cafe.

"You might never know the kids here are sick," said Taylor, the CEO.

"They run, they play, they get to socialize with others in a hyper clean environment. It's physically and mentally good for them. We're giving these kids the opportunity to be kids again."

His own granddaughter, once a social butterfly whose cancer journey turned her into a shy child who feared crowds, noise and the chaos of school, is back to her earliest self.

Now a fourth grader in Gilbert, Lily is an aspiring actress and dancer, but she carries with her memories of being sick.

"Her dad used to sing 'Country Roads' and play his guitar for her, and she remembers that," Taylor said. "She doesn't want to hear that song anymore."

The nonprofit currently operates on grants and contributions, and also holds periodic fundraisers. Its 2nd Annual Range Partee is slated for 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, at Dobson Ranch Golf Course in Mesa.

Dinner, golf and a silent auction are planned.

For more information about Lily's Pad, visit [lilyspadaz.org](http://lilyspadaz.org) or call 480-576-7740.

*Janie, a Tempean through and through, is a regular contributor to Wrangler News. She was a reporter at The Arizona Republic for many years.*



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# SCHOOLS

## Lift-off in 3! 2! 1!

Story by Laura Hallstrom  
Photo by Michael Kandariz

**E**ighth graders at Fees College Preparatory Middle School took their learning from the classroom to the skies with classroom-built rockets.

Using their foundational knowledge on the laws of motion from seventh grade, students expanded their understanding to include both thermal and chemical energy, and how they are transferred to help guide the construction.

After designing and building their rockets, groups were ready to take them to the skies to see how they fared. As each rocket was launched, students observed how well they flew, how far they flew, and if the rockets were able to withstand flight in one piece.



The rocket launch project is a rite of passage of sorts at Fees. For Science Teacher Diana Cordell, this STEM project is a great opportunity to get students engaged and excited about school.

“I just love hearing their excitement when their rockets do take off,” Cordell reflected. “It’s a really awesome opportunity for students to take their learning and put it into practice.”

But teachers like Cordell aren’t the only ones that get excited about STEM activities.

Eighth grader Samantha Arce feels a deeper connection to topics when they incorporate hands-on opportunities.

“My favorite experiment I’ve done in this class is the rockets because it was really cool to see them launch and know that I made it myself,” Arce said.

“I like doing hands-on projects better than just watching other people do it because then I get to experience it myself. I can test things out and see how they work.”

Cordell says she loves watching students build something successfully. But even when their rockets fail to launch, she works to guide them to other insights.

“It’s an opportunity for them to reflect later about what went wrong with their design or what they could have done better,” she said.

“Sometimes we’re going to fail, but what can we do to take that failure and make it even better?”

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## *It's Time for an Update.*

### **WHAT IS IT?**

Proposition 478 represents the General Plan 2050, a document that was meticulously crafted by Tempe residents, city staff, and elected leaders. Arizona law requires every city to adopt a long-term, comprehensive General Plan that guides a city's physical growth.

### **WHY NOW?**

It's time for an update. The current General Plan 2040 is effective for up to ten years from the date the plan was adopted by Council (December 2013) and ratified by Tempe voters (May 2014). The changes are necessary to effectively plan for the future by incorporating feedback from current residents and utilizing up-to-date data. Passing Prop 478 fulfills that requirement.

### **WHO IS SUPPORTING IT?**

At a candidate forum on January 17, 2024, all five Tempe City Council candidates indicated that they support the General Plan 2050. Voting "Yes" on Prop 478 is also supported by your firefighters, police officers, local businesses, neighborhood leaders, Mayor Woods, and your City Councilmembers.

Paid for by Tempe Together PAC. Major Funding Provided by UPFF Tempe Chapter PAC with 0% out of state funding. Not Authorized by any Candidate or Candidate's Committee.

## *Vote Yes to Protect our Neighborhoods.*

### **WHAT WILL THE GENERAL PLAN 2050 ACCOMPLISH?**

**DOES NOT:** change any of Tempe's existing single-family neighborhoods

**DOES:** ensure Tempe keeps up with our neighboring cities and is prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow by:

- Incorporating climate resiliency and environmental stewardship that will ensure Tempe remains a regional leader in sustainability
- Creating a diverse range of new housing options to give Tempe residents a chance to buy their first home or rent where they work
- Supporting improvements to Tempe's roads while upgrading bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Embracing emerging national trends such as micromobility and remote working
- Investing in protecting the quality of life for every Tempe resident while responsibly preparing for our shared future.

Learn more about why Tempe residents are voting "Yes" on Prop 478 at  
[www.TempeTogether.org](http://www.TempeTogether.org)



# Tempe rated among top U.S. cities for quality of services

Tempe continues to set the standard for the delivery of services, ranking among the top cities in the country for satisfaction, according to the results of the 2023 Community Survey.

Results show that 81% of Tempe residents are satisfied with the quality of services the city offers – 32% higher than the national average. Satisfaction has also increased since last year. Of the 117 areas assessed in both 2022 and 2023, 89 areas rated higher.

Tempe ranks in the top 10% of cities around the country for satisfaction with the overall quality of city services, value for their dollars and customer service. This earned Tempe the Leading the Way Award for 2023 from ETC Institute.

“It’s gratifying that Tempe’s residents recognize the efforts made every day to provide the best city services possible,” said Mayor Corey Woods. “We appreciate their feedback and will continue to work on those issues they care about the most.”

The city committed to using data to improve quality of life and to ensure residents get the most for their tax dollars in 2016 and Tempe’s Community Survey is the backbone for many of the city’s 100+ performance measures, along with other data.

That survey measures what the community cares most about, helps to inform strategies and operations, appropriate budget where needed and then connects with performance measures to chart outcomes.

The City of Tempe has more than 100 performance measures. These include everything from fire response time to pavement quality index, services for the homeless, age-friendly programs and safety. To show progress toward its goals, the city benchmarks itself not only against its past performance but also

in comparison with how other cities across the nation are doing and more. This use of data can easily be seen on our public dashboards.

Residents can explore the performance measure dashboards at <https://performance.tempe.gov/>. They can even download data sets for their own research at [open.tempe.gov](https://open.tempe.gov/).

“These surveys provide crucial information needed to understand what our residents and businesses feel are most important,” said City Manager Rosa Inchausti. “This data is vital to tracking successes and benchmarking progress toward our city’s goals.”

## How it works

ETC Institute is the leader in community surveys, conducting surveys in more than 1,000 cities nationally, including more than 20 of the nation’s largest cities, like Austin, TX and Durham, NC.

The company routinely provides survey information to university researchers around the country who use the data for academic work.

Since 2007, ETC Institute has provided an annual survey of Tempe residents through mail, email and telephone.

Surveys reflect Tempe’s demographics and the results are statistically valid for each of the city’s eight character areas.

The 2023 survey was sent to 6,000 residents and had a 17% response rate. The national response rate for community surveys is less than 10%.

To ensure that the survey was completed only by Tempe residents, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address before submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random



sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.

Only one survey response was included per address.

Because the City of Tempe uses this survey as an anchor for so many performance measures, it’s designed as a longitudinal survey, meaning that it is meant to measure the same kinds of information each year to build a history.

The city can chart progress toward success or measure what needs improvement based on responses.

Some of the same questions are asked not only from year to year, but they are also asked in surveys for different cities around the country.

According to ETC Institute CEO Chris Tatham, the specific question about “the overall quality of services offered by the City of Tempe” has been asked the same way by ETC Institute in more than 500 cities and counties across the United States during the past five years. This allows ETC Institute to provide the city with an objective assessment of resident attitudes toward the quality of city services that is benchmarked nationally.

Those interested can read more about the methodology for this survey

at [tempe.gov/surveys](https://tempe.gov/surveys). There, they can also find an in-depth, interactive dashboard of results.

Tempe’s use of data is globally recognized by Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works Cities.

What Works Cities certification is the national standard of excellence in data-driven city governance.

The organization evaluates how well cities are managed by measuring the extent to which city leaders incorporate data and evidence in their decision-making, such as whether they are using data to set goals and track progress, allocate funding, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and achieve desired outcomes from contracts with outside vendors.

Only 35 cities nationally are currently certified at any level right now and Tempe is one of just seven with a gold rating. Cities are benchmarked against a national standard.

“Tempe’s use of data to inform decisions, strategies, and operations, alongside purposeful engagement with residents, businesses and employees, sets a standard of excellence for not only Arizona, but as a national model for a modern, local government, said Wydale Holmes, Director of Strategic Management and Innovation Office.”

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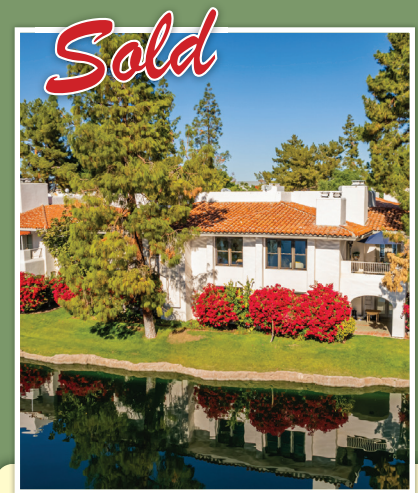
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Join Councilmember Berdetta Hodge on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 10 a.m. at Escalante Multigenerational Center.

This month, residents will be able to meet with knowledgeable experts at no cost from Tempe's Financial and Human and Social Services Departments.

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[www.tempe.gov/Hodge](http://www.tempe.gov/Hodge)



## Linking people, city together is top message of Chandler Mayor Hartke's update

Mayor Kevin Hartke and the Chandler City Council invite the community to the annual State of the City presentation on Thursday, Feb. 15, at Chandler Center for the Arts.

This year's theme is "what brings people together."

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a pre-event reception with family games to enjoy along with free food samples from Minburi Thai,

Poppin' Love and Taqueria El Sonorense.

The program kicks off at 6:30 p.m. with a Japanese Taiko Drumming performance by Fushicho Daiko, followed by the mayor's address that will follow what is being called "a gameboard adventure" to highlight Chandler's successes from last year.

The event is free and open to the public.

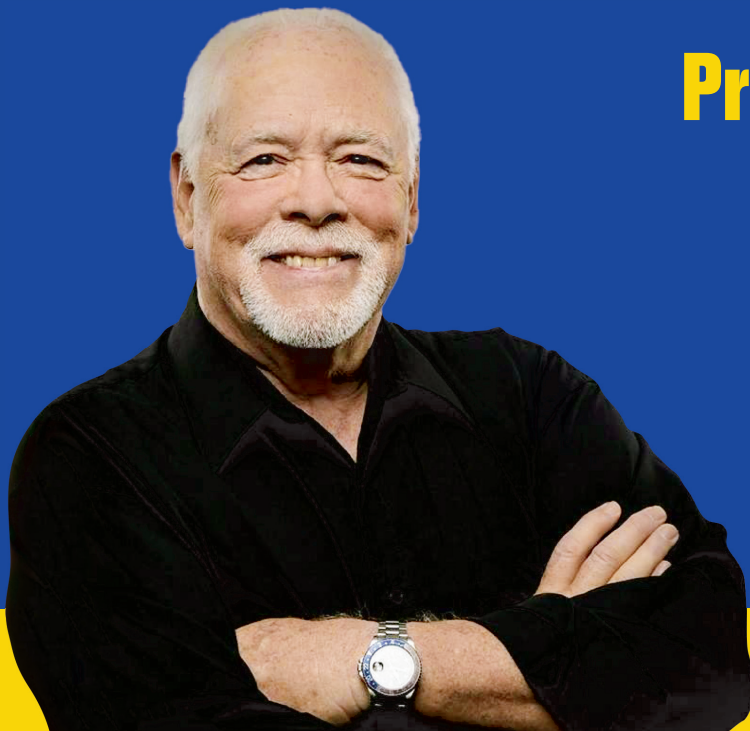
RSVPs are encouraged, and available at [chandleraz.gov/StateoftheCity](http://chandleraz.gov/StateoftheCity).

For additional event-related questions, contact the Mayor & Council Office at 480-782-2200.

Center for the Arts is at 250 N. Arizona Ave., Chandler.

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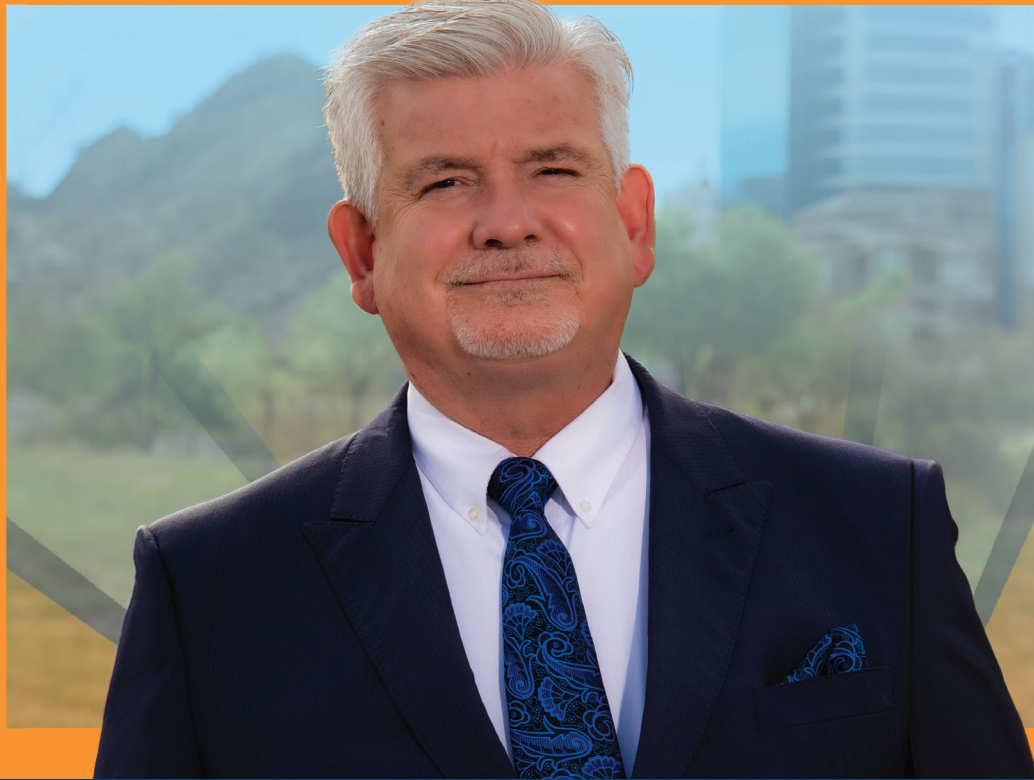


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- ☀ Invest in Tempe's schools to ensure our children have a safe learning environment
- ☀ Protect Tempe's first responders, firefighters, and police officers from budget cuts
- ☀ Build more affordable housing for Tempe's working families
- ☀ Stand up to developers and special interest groups
- ☀ Reduce traffic congestion

## **VOTE BY ELECTION DAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 12.**

Paid for by Tapia for Tempe. Authorized by Dr. Hugo Tapia.



# SPORTS

## Aztec girls soccer maintains optimism for 6A success

By Alex Zener  
Sports Notebook

Corona's girls soccer team finished the regular season ranked No. 11 with a 10-6-1 overall record, and was tentatively scheduled to play at home against the No. 22 team in the 6A conference play-in on Feb. 8.

The Aztecs will need to win this conference play-in match to get a spot in the first round of the 6A state playoffs scheduled Feb. 14 at the higher seed.

The Aztecs had some close games early in the season, which had an undesirable impact on their final No. 11 ranking. But they gained momentum and confidence after winning 10 of their last 12 matches.

"We are very happy to host the conference play-in game," said head coach **Bobby Smith**. "But overall, it's a shame we didn't crack the top 10



Alex

or even the top eight ranking.

"Results early in the season always come back to haunt teams. Our 3-3 draw with Liberty, on Dec. 7, is one of those games."

One of the two losses out of the last 12

games was to No. 3-ranked Desert Vista on Jan. 17 that went into double overtime before the Thunder was able to defeat Corona, 3-1.

"We are confident we can compete with any 6A team," said Smith, "as evidenced by our close losses, after having the lead, to both No. 2 ranked Xavier and No. 4-ranked Basha early in the season and then taking Desert Vista into double overtime."

The Aztecs scored 43 goals in the regular season, 23 of which were scored by two senior team captains, **Kyarra Aparicio**, with 13 goals, and midfielder **Kiera Campbell**, with 10.

"Kyarra is our leading scorer and is very important to our link-up play overall," said Smith.

"She has started all four years as forward and will be truly missed as a goal scorer, but also as a voice in the locker room." Added Smith:

"Kiera, has been a massive, ever-present scoring threat coming from midfield for the past two seasons.

"She is the only two-year captain in the school's history for a reason. She leads by example and is effective no matter where she is on the field."

Sophomore forward **Paige Buckley** is the third-leading scorer on the team, with five goals.

"Paige is the future of our program, and if it wasn't for an injury she suffered during her club season she would certainly have had more goals and assists," said Smith.

Junior defender **Sadie Robertson** was next, with four goals.

Aparicio, Campbell, Buckley and Robertson were not the only offensive players to deserve credit during the regular season.

"The most underrated offensive players for us this season have been our outside backs, junior **Kaylee Weid**, junior **Amanda Seliger**, senior **Gianna Garza**, (early in the season) sophomore **Brooke Sheehan** and junior **Ella Barria**," said Smith.

"The way we play encourages our outside backs to get forward and create overloads, as well as deliver crosses, which can lead to goals."

Ten other players scored for the Aztecs during the regular season, including sophomore midfielder **Lucy Corcoran**, who scored two goals, as well as senior Garza, junior forward **Chloe Derouin**, senior midfielder **Marina Carson**, senior defender **Celine Sarian**, senior defender **Jolie Saliego**, sophomore Sheehan, sophomore midfielder **Lucy McQuaid**, sophomore midfielder **Analyn Kerr** and freshman midfielder **Alexa Hape**, who all scored one goal each.

Aparicio and Campbell are the assist leaders on the team with six and five assists respectively, but just like with goal scoring, there were 10 other players on the stat sheet who recorded one or more assists.

What qualifies as an assist in the high school game of soccer appears to be a hard statistic to regulate.

"Assists is a tough stat, as some schools will count it if a girl passes four yards to a teammate, who then dribbles past three players and scores," said Smith.

"In the world of soccer, that scenario is not an assist. An assist is the pass prior to a player scoring with one or two touches, (a corner kick being the easiest example of this)."

"Our team really shares our assists around and it is all a credit

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Corona's senior soccer players will play a significant role in how far the Aztecs can go in 6A state championship playoffs. Group includes, from left, Jolie Saliego, Mariana Carson, Avery Scholl, Keira Campbell, Giana Garza, Celine Sarian and Kyarra Aparicio. — Photo courtesy Kelsey Eastman

to the players," said Smith. "They're all willing to get forward and try a through-ball or cross into a dangerous area."

The Aztecs have 35 assists for their 43 goals in the regular season. In addition to Aparicio and Campbell, Buckley and Kerr have four assists; sophomore forward **Josephine Burgess**, Corcoran and Sheehan each have three assists while Derouin and senior midfielder **Marina Carson** each have two. With one assist each are sophomore forward **Emma Weaver**, junior defender **Kailee Weid** and Garza.

Additionally, Corona's midfielders support both the defense and the attackers.

"As mentioned previously, Kiera Campbell, has been an ever-present aspect in the midfield but sophomore **Analyn Kerr** is one to watch out for in the coming year," said Smith. "She has been outstanding so far in her first two seasons playing with us."

"**Marina Carson**, a four-year varsity player and one of our team captains, is the heartbeat of the team roster," noted Smith. "She has shown she is willing to put her body on the line over and over

again playing the midfield position."

"In addition, **Gianna Garza** changed our team dynamic when she was moved to the '6,' or defensive, midfielder position," said Smith.

"'G' as she is affectionately known, has been a vital part of this program," said Smith. "She demonstrated this season that she is versatile and mature beyond her years."

### Opponents shy on goal successes

The Aztecs have only had 10 goals scored against them during 16 regular season games due to the sound play of the defenders and goalkeepers.

"Sophomore defender **Jami Sheehan** has been outstanding this season playing defense," said Smith. "She is a workhorse who is confident on the ball. **Sadie Robertson** is the vocal leader in the defense," said Smith. "She responded incredibly well when she was not starting at the beginning of the season."

"Both Jami and Sadie attack the ball in the air well and are the catalysts for our build up play."

Corona has two goalkeepers who have a total

of 95 saves or 5.9 saves per game and have allowed only 10 goals against the Aztecs.

Junior **Amara Yetka** has played the most minutes, registering 6.3 saves per game, six wins and two shutouts.

"In my opinion, Amara is the best goalkeeper in the state," said Smith. "Goalkeeper stats are often skewed but anyone that watches her play can see the quality, athleticism and competitiveness she brings to the position."

Freshman **Caitlyn Wendell** has played in seven games but recorded 16 saves or 2.3 saves a game.

"Caitlyn has had little playing time but has shown in those cameos, plus practices, why we are confident in this area moving forward," said Smith.

Freshman JV goalkeeper **Berlyne Zandt** played with the varsity team during the Aztecs' winter tournament and has been called up to varsity for the playoffs, according to Smith.

The Aztecs honored their seniors at their last home game on Jan. 30, when they defeated Queen Creek 5-0.

Continued on Page 31



Mark your calendar for Tempe Councilmember Doreen Garlid's Backstage Pass on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. at Tempe Police Substation at 10 W. Guadalupe Road. This month, residents will be able to go behind the scenes with Tempe Police – tour mounted unit corrals, see the trained K9 dogs and explore the SWAT vehicles.

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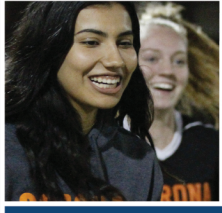
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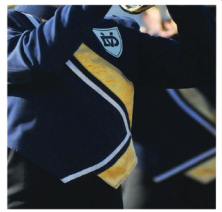


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'Small Island, Big Song' highlights at Tempe Center for Arts focuses on people of island nations'

## By Mark Moorhead

Here in land-locked Arizona, we don't think about islands too often.

And if we do, it's probably as an idyllic daydream of vacation.

The special problems and challenges that relate to island environments are not something on which we spend a lot of time.

But Tempe Center for the Arts is offering a chance to get more in touch with these issues, and to do so in an entertaining way.

At 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 10, the Center presents "Small Island, Big



Mark

Song," a multimedia concert featuring performances by musicians from various island nations including New Zealand, Madagascar, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Mauritius, Tahiti and others.

The music is performed in the native languages of these islands and on traditional instruments. T

he show is followed by a panel discussion about the impact the climate crisis on both the environment and the indigenous people of these islands.

Tickets are \$25; \$10 for students. For details go to [tempecenterforthearts.com](http://tempecenterforthearts.com).

Connected to the concert are several free, fun, family-friendly residency-based programs.

These include a "Trash to Music" Hands-on Art Workshop, showing how to make musical instruments from recycled materials at Tempe

Public Library from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday February 9) and, back at TCA, a “Community Conversation” called “Artists Making traditional Culture Relevant” from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Then, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at TCA on Saturday is “Dancing from the Islands to the Desert,” a participatory workshop blending indigenous dance from Arizona hoop dancing to the Sega Dance from Mauritius.

The cultural events keep coming.

The following weekend, the 28th annual Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival kicks off on Feb. 18 and continues through March 3.

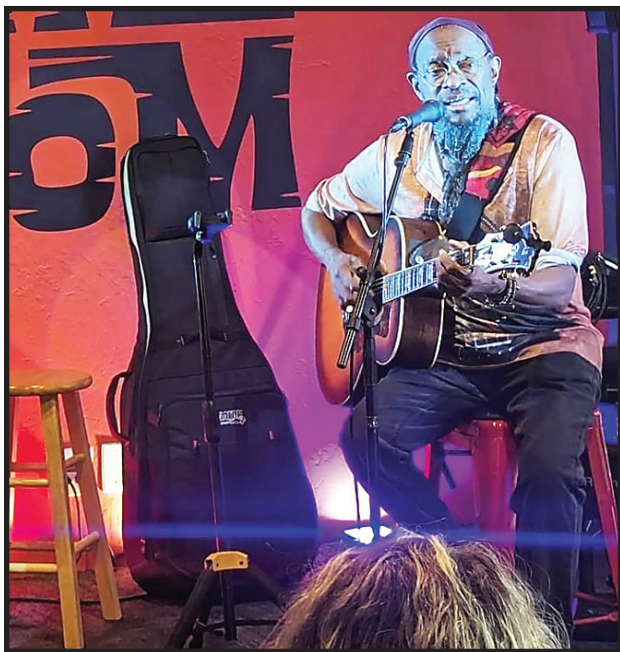
More than 20 feature films will be offered at venues around the Valley, including Harkins Chandler Fashion Square.

Selections this year range from the historical thriller Irena’s Vow to the Israeli comedy-drama Matchmaking to the “Jewish Electro-Pop Musical” Less Than Kosher.

There are also documentaries on subjects from Bella Abzug (Bella!) to philanthropists Lottie and Howard Marcus (Who Are the Marcuses?) to the great Gene Wilder (Remembering Gene Wilder). Many of these screenings are followed by speakers.

Individual tickets are \$15; a 6-ticket pass is \$80; a 12-ticket pass is \$150, and a full pass is \$250. Go to [gpjff.com](http://gpjff.com) for details.

*Mark Moorhead, film critic for many years at the Phoenix New Times, has written for Wrangler News for over a decade. His longtime connection with Tempe arts is evident in every piece he contributes.*



Repeat performance: If this photo looks familiar, it’s because it ran in our last issue, unfortunately without the name of the performer, longtime Tempe musician and vocalist Walt Richardson, who celebrated his 70th birthday with, what else, a night out on the town. Happy BD, Walt, and many more.

# tcca

something  
for everyone.



**SMALL ISLAND  
BIG SONG**  
Indigenous Arts  
FEBRUARY 10



**THIS LAND IS  
OUR LAND**  
Americana  
FEBRUARY 24



**48 LIVE:  
ALEXIS JANAÉ**  
R&B  
FEBRUARY 29



**48 LIVE: BAD CACTUS  
BRASS BAND**  
Funk/Brass Music  
MARCH 7



**VOCTAVE**  
A cappella  
MARCH 9

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## How to Choose the Best Elementary School for Your Child

Whether your child is starting school for the first time ever, switching schools within a district, or moving to a new area, selecting a new elementary school takes time and consideration. The following tips may be helpful in guiding your decision.

### Research Your Options

Whether it's visiting a school website, browsing social media, or scheduling a tour, taking the time to explore the variety of options that are available is an important first step. It's always a good idea to research schools that are in your neighborhood or district, but don't forget about options that are outside of it, too. Did you know that 18% of all Tempe Elementary School students enroll from outside of the district? **At Tempe Elementary, we have 18 exceptional elementary and K-8 options to choose from! We welcome all students no matter where they live and what their needs are.**

Interested in learning more about Tempe Elementary Schools? Visit [www.tempeschools.org/schools](http://www.tempeschools.org/schools) for a comprehensive list and more information.

### Consider Your Child's Unique Needs

Every child learns differently and with so many choices, it can be overwhelming to figure out the best option for your child. That's why it's important to explore. Is your child interested in music and the arts? Is your child gifted? Are you looking for special education services? Do you think Montessori or a K-8 model would be a good fit? **Tempe Elementary has a variety of school options that prepare students to meet the needs of your child – and you.**

Want to hear more about specialized programs at Tempe Elementary Schools? Call (480) 730-7406 to speak with someone about the options we have available!

### Tour the School

You've selected a few schools you're interested in. Now it's time to meet the staff, learn about the curriculum, and get a feel for the school community! School tours are an excellent opportunity to help guide your decision making. Be sure to have your child join the tour if you are able to do so as well. **All Tempe Elementary Schools offer in-person tours for our community.**

Visit [www.tempeschools.org/tours](http://www.tempeschools.org/tours) to schedule your tour today!

### Time to Enroll

You found the school you and your child love. Enrolling your child is the next step. Make sure you gather all registration requirements to make enrollment quick and easy, and know all important dates that are coming up at the school. **Tempe Elementary is now enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year! Enroll at any of our schools, either online or in person.**

Visit [www.tempeschools.org/enroll](http://www.tempeschools.org/enroll) to begin enrolling today!

We are proud to offer extracurricular activities, arts, clubs, and athletic conference sports – at little or no cost to families.

Tempe Elementary School District has a variety of choice options for elementary school in a deeply rooted community that believes in all children. Learn how to enroll for the 2024-2025 school year: [www.tempeschools.org/enroll](http://www.tempeschools.org/enroll)

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Questions? ☎ (480) 730-7406 ✉ [info@tempeschools.org](mailto:info@tempeschools.org)

## Continued from Page 31

In addition to Aparicio, Campbell, Garza and Carson, four other seniors were honored for their commitment and dedication to Corona's girls soccer program.

**Celine Sarian** played in 10 games, scoring one goal and two points.

"Celine was a leader on the JV team before making varsity as a senior," said Smith. "She never complained. Players as helpful and polite as Celine cannot be taken for granted."

**Avry Scholl** was another player who moved up to varsity from the JV team.

"Avry never let the team down," Smith recalled. "Players like Avry, who move up from JV, are a huge part of our program."

"It shows the quality of coaching at the JV level but also speaks

to Avry's drive and approach throughout the years."

**Maia Flanagan** was not able to play in her junior year but decided to return this season.

"We were very happy that Maia decided to join the team her senior year," said Smith.

"She helped launch our program as a freshman standout on JV and came full circle this year with some brilliant performances on varsity."

**Jolie Saliego** was a junior transfer from Tempe Prep.

"Jolie initially joined our team as a goalkeeper but transitioned to the field this year," Smith added. "She is a diligent worker who has made great leaps in the short time since joining our team."

The Aztecs were scheduled to play the No. 22 seed, Sunnyside, at home in the 2024 Girls Winter Soccer 6A Conference Play-In on Feb. 8. If they defeat Sunnyside, the Aztecs will move on to the state championship playoffs first round on Feb. 14, most likely against the No. 6 seed, the Tucson Badgers.

## Corona boys soccer

Currently the Aztecs are ranked No. 10 in the 6A conference with a 15-5 overall and 4-1 6A Central record. If that ranking stands, they will need to play in the 6A conference play-in scheduled for Feb. 8 against the No. 23 ranked team, Trevor G Browne.

Corona would need to win this conference play-in match played on the Aztecs' home field starting at 6 p.m. in order to play in the first round of the 6A state championships which start on Feb. 13. If they defeat Trevor Browne, the Aztecs will most likely play the No. 7 seed, Shadow Ridge.

*Alex Zener, who was co-captain of the CdS varsity volleyball team during his tenure there 12 years ago, has written his regular Sports Notebook column for Wrangler News for over a decade. He now lives and works in the Dallas area.*

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## Kyrene Corridor Market Report

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**Average Sold Price:**  
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