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WRANGLER NEWS

Tempe Bike Month has wheeled into town and will be with us through April 30 — still time to get the family on the road for a whole lot of springtime fun. [Details Pg. 18] — Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

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SCAN FOR SPECIAL OFFERS





Volunteer Soham is among the area teens who provide staffing for calls from those experiencing suicidal thoughts or knowing others who are..

— Teen Lifeline photo by Luis Barcelo

A simple 'hello' could save a life

Campaign encourages proactive phone call or text to a teen possibly in jeopardy

By Jessica Gonzalez
Special to Wrangler News

A simple check-in on Thursday, April 25, could have potentially lifesaving results. Has there ever been a better reason to use your phone than to make such a call?

Teen Lifeline staff and volunteers are urging every Tempe and West Chandler resident to use what is perhaps the most fundamental accessory

they own to be proactive on National Telephone Day, Thursday, April 25 – by calling or texting a teen in their life, especially one who might be facing worrisome personal issues, to check in, say hello and let them know you care.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, strong, positive relationships with others can be protective and prevent suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Such protective relationships can be especially important this time of year, as research indicates

the number of suicides rises during the spring months. The Teen Lifeline crisis hotline, staffed by volunteer teen peer counselors, handles a 10% increase in calls from teens in crisis each year between spring break and the end of the school year.

“Whether it’s finals, graduation or friends moving on or moving away, the end of



— See next page

Visit WRANGLERNEWS.COM for updated news, photos and videos



– From preceding page

the school year is more stressful for our teens than we realize,” says Nikki Kontz, clinical director at Teen Lifeline.

“Please use your phone for its best possible purpose on April 25th and throughout the next two months to check in with a teen and see how they are doing.

“It could save a life.”

It's important for teenagers to know that the adults in their lives care about them, Kontz says, yet she also urges teens to reach out to other teens on National Telephone Day.

“It’s all about making someone feel like they’re cared about,” she adds.

In 2023, Teen Lifeline received nearly 48,000 calls and text messages from teens in crisis—a 10.6% increase from call volumes in 2022.

Of those, nearly 16,000 calls and texts were from a teen experiencing thoughts of suicide, say Lifeline staff.

In addition to its use as the ubiquitous tool teens use to stay in touch with their friends, the device, Kontz explains, can be an important relationship building tool for parents, caregivers, and family members.

“Some teens who are nervous about opening up in person will be more likely to share their feelings through text messages, especially when they are struggling with something,” says Kontz.

Sending memes, gifs or articles that align with a teen’s interests is another way to use a cell phone to uplift, encourage and maintain a relationship.

On National Telephone Day, Kontz recommends reaching out with simple messages, which could include such remarks as:

- Just checking in. How are you doing?
- Thinking about you today – how’s it going?
- Doing OK at school?
- Feeling good about finals or do you need some support?
- Haven’t talked in a while and wanted to say hi!
- I hope you’re having a great week!
- I miss you, let’s make plans to see each other soon!
- I love you! How are you today?

Watch for warning signs

During the spring, and year-round, adults are encouraged to pay attention to common warning signs a teen may be considering suicide. These can include:

- Talking about death, wanting to die or feelings of falling apart
- Changes in sleeping or eating habits
- Feeling depressed, sad or hopeless for more than two weeks
- Extreme mood swings
- Isolating or withdrawing from friends, family or usual social activities
- Drastic changes in usual behavior

Adults who suspect a teen may be having thoughts of suicide should ask the teen about it directly.

Asking the question will not plant the idea of suicide in a teenager’s head and it can give them permission to speak freely, says Kontz.

If a teen replies that they have been thinking about suicide, Kontz recommends thanking them for their honesty and then asking questions about how they’ve been feeling and why.

If the teen is not in immediate danger, create a plan to get help by calling Teen Lifeline or seeking a referral to mental health services or counseling.

While waiting for services, be sure to minimize suicide risks by locking up all medications, sharp objects and poisonous chemicals and securing all firearms, including storing ammunition separately.

For more information, visit TeenLifeline.org.

Steps to take in case of immediate concern:

- *Call 911 for emergency services.*
- *Go to the nearest hospital emergency room.*
- *Call or text 988 to connect with the 988*

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline . The Lifeline provides 24-hour, confidential support to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Support is also available via live chat . Para ayuda en español, llame al 988.

Relief centers provide shoes, water bowls to protect Bella during summer

This summer, heat relief centers across Maricopa County will be equipped with new dog shoes and water bowls to help keep dogs healthy and safe, based on funding approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 13.

The program supplements a multi-partner, county-wide heat preparedness effort already under way in response to another summer of possible record-breaking heat deaths.

From May 1 to Sept. 30, emergency cooling centers and water distribution areas will be established at various community centers, churches and community organizations to provide refuge for those who lack access to indoor, cool environments.

Specific locations for relief centers in Tempe and West Chandler have not yet been announced.

County officials say locations of those sites should be announced May 1.

“Offering dog shoes and water bowls at these centers will be a tremendous help for people trying to keep their dogs hydrated and protected from paw burns,” said Supervisor Thomas Galvin.

The purchase of dog supplies is being funded using \$8,000 of Maricopa County Community Solutions Funding allocated through Oct. 31.

The Supervisors’ Community Solutions Funding is designed to help advance Maricopa County’s strategic goals and provide benefits for Maricopa County residents.

For tips on how to stay safe in extreme heat and find a nearby cooling center visit www.maricopa.gov/1871/Extreme-Heat.



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Kyrene Pueblo's spelling bee champ makes it look as easy as A (for arithmetic), B (for blandish), C (for calving)

By Janie Magruder

Izzy Garcia was that toddler who preferred letters of the alphabet to treasures out of the toy box. She taught herself to read at age 2, perfected her printing at preschool, and competed in her first spelling bee as a fourth grader at Mirada Elementary.

Now a seventh grader at Pueblo Middle School, Izzy's eighth bee (class, school, district or regional) was March 16, the day after her 13th birthday. In her first-ever appearance at the Arizona Spelling Bee, Izzy went 35 rounds against 27 other super spellers, earning a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, scheduled May 26-31, in National Harbor, Md.

During four-plus hours of competition, which also featured tricky vocabulary-meaning rounds, her words yawed from the fairly simply "dupes," "longitude," and "rotary" to the — what? — "albinism," "cathect" and "mawkish." From



Round 1 ("hoagies") to Round 33 ("libration"), Izzy made spelling look easy, and fun.

"My toughest word by far was 'rawin' (and even the definition doesn't make sense: 'a wind

(Izzy's) dad, Herb, was an elementary school spelling bee contestant, but she will tell you — and there seems little doubt about it — that she's the family's best speller.

sounding of the atmosphere made by tracking a balloon with radar'), and the easiest was 'icicle,'" she said. "I was having quite a bit of fun onstage. It was just an overwhelmingly happy experience, and I thought the crowd should know."

The audience of about 100 in the Madison

Center for the Arts in Phoenix, did know. They laughed with the contestants who got "farkleberry" and "jimberjawed," and scratched their heads at "koto" (a long Japanese zither with 13 strings) and "withies," the plural form of the pre-12th Century word, "withy," a slender twig.

That was the only word Izzy spelled incorrectly during all rounds, earning her second place in the bee, a huge red trophy, a trip for two including airfare and hotel to the national bee, and \$800 in travel money. First place went to eighth-grader Aliyah Alpert of Yavapai County, then 2022 state winner. Three of the top five finishers were from Maricopa County. Between August 2023 and February, nearly a half million Arizona students participated in some form of bees, from class to regionals; the state bee was hosted by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

On the final day, some contestants were clearly nervous in front of the official word pronouncer and two-judge panel, using an index finger to write words on a palm or typing them on their thighs. Along with toe-tapping, general fidgeting and periodic yawns, they cheered each other, giving high fives, handshakes and hugs when words were spelled correctly and, especially when they were not.

"Aw, shucks," Avery Smith-Hendricks yelled when he misdefined matriculation, but the smile remained on his face.

From "alimentation" to "zander," some of the words were incredibly difficult. Posthumous. Nervily. Luminance. Parkour. Cutis. Plantigrade. Grotesqueness. Volemic (the winning word).

In Izzy's previous bees, words like "comestibles," "aggrandizement" and "bureaucrats" gave her pause. Her dad, Herb, was an elementary school bee contestant, but Izzy will tell you — and there seems little doubt — that she is the family's best speller. Her mom, Katie Sue, said their eldest daughter's poise and confidence, as well as her ability to enjoy and savor the goodness of the day, made them proud.

“We loved seeing her beautiful heart in action just as much as her amazing brain,” Katie Sue said.

“It is pretty amazing to see the gifts and skills that started in our little curious, word-loving, one-year-old, come to fruition in our bright, hard-working 13-year-old.”

Izzy’s all that, but that isn’t all she is. She plays tuba in Pueblo’s concert, symphonic and jazz bands, and plans to eventually audition for a spot

in Corona del Sol’s topnotch marching band. Music — teaching it, composing it or performing it — is what she’d like to do someday. Izzy also takes karate lessons, and is a Girl Scout who sold a few boxes of cookies this spring — 450 of them by a rough count.

She’s a voracious reader — favorite series are “Keeper of the Lost Cities,” “Warrior Cats” and “Harry Potter” — because you don’t get to be a top speller without reading.

For now, Izzy will have a proper makeup: a birthday sleepover with a best friend before she hits the spelling books for the national bee.

“I’m definitely going to work more on foreign roots as well as some other concepts like how to decode a word I’ve never heard before,” she said.

The national spelling bee finals will be broadcast live on ION the evening of Thursday, May 30.

Fri, March 29
- Stations of the Cross
7am-8pm in Gym
- Good Friday
Service @6pm

Sat, March 30
Kids’ Egg Hunt
Toddler-5th Grade
@9am Sharp

Sun, March 31
Easter Services
@6:30, 8:30,
10, & 11:30am



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FUNDAY-Z





Sports equipment, instructional programming, games, music, snacks and more — they were all part of Tempe Play Mobile's free after-school adventure for tweens and teens. Programming ran weekdays from 3 p.m. - dusk (approximately 6 p.m.) Photos on these pages recount events that continue at Scudder Park on March 22 and 26; April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; and May 6 and 13.

— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski

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 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 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 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

Choose Tempe Elementary Schools



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Questions? (480) 730-7406 info@tempeschools.org



Everyone deserves to get home safe

With safety as a top priority, the City of Tempe designates strict enforcement safety corridors on our roadways each quarter for extra enforcement, traffic engineering and more. These streets are selected based on the statistical analysis for higher probability for collisions. From April through June, those areas are:

- University Drive from McClintock Drive to Loop 101
 - Broadway Road from Priest Drive to Mill Avenue
 - Warner Road from Rural Road to McClintock Drive
 - Baseline Road from Kyrene to Rural roads
- Get details on Tempe's plans for safer streets at tempe.gov/VisionZero.

Mark your calendars for food, games and neighborhood bonding



This year's Neighborhood Celebration is approaching quick, and it will be a blast! Join your community for free breakfast, live music, small business vendors, yard games and more on Saturday, April 6, from 9 - 11 a.m. at Kiwanis Park. 2024 Neighborhood Award Honorees will be recognized at this event. We'll see you there!

Find more details at tempe.gov/NeighborhoodCelebration.

Tempe loves data

Tempeans, be proud! Check out these five ways Tempe is leading the country in resident and business leader satisfaction:

93% of Tempe residents surveyed were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the quality of medical services provided by Tempe Fire Medical Rescue - 22% higher than the national average.

88% of businesses surveyed viewed Tempe as a welcoming destination for visitors and tourists.

76% of the residents surveyed were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the availability of information about City programs, events, services and issues - that's 30% higher than the national average.

74% of the residents surveyed were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the image of the City - 21% higher than the national average.

73% of the residents surveyed were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the quality of customer service provided by our employees - 34% higher than the national average.

The City of Tempe surveys its residents annually to determine priorities, track our progress and enhance our services. Read the surveys at tempe.gov/surveys and see our progress on performance.tempe.gov.

This year, Tempe was among the top 10% of all surveyed U.S. cities for resident satisfaction and was one of five global cities to earn platinum certification from Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works Cities for its use of data.



Make Earth Day Every Day this April

April is Earth Month. Whether it's through water conservation, energy efficiency or recycling, Tempe wants you to celebrate living sustainably! Throughout the month

of April, Tempe will be sharing sustainability-focused local events, tips and information to the community.

Make Earth Day every day by attending an Earth Month event, practicing using less water, reducing your waste or using public transit.

Get tips at tempe.gov/EarthMonth.

Happy 2024 Bike Month!

• It's PedalPalooza on Saturday, April 13, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at 2011 E. Apache Blvd. Enjoy games, food trucks, free bike tune-ups and a six-mile group ride.

• Bike to Work Day is on Wednesday, April 17, from 7 - 8:30 a.m. The first 350 bike riders can stop by one of six locations to get a free T-shirt and bike repair kit.

• Nominate a Bike Hero before April 30.

Details for everything at tempe.gov/BikeMonth.

Support Tempe Community Action Agency

Enjoy cuisine from local restaurants and live music on April 5 at TCAA's 18th Annual VICINITY and make a difference in the Tempe community! This year's event offers a unique VIP experience featuring a moderated discussion with New York Times bestselling author Jeannette Walls of *The Glass Castle*, which offers a unique look at her childhood experiences of poverty and homelessness in Phoenix.

All proceeds from the event support the work of Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) in meeting the increasing challenges of hunger, poverty and homelessness in Tempe. More information and tickets are available at tempeaction.org/vicinity.

More food forests and tree canopies coming to Tempe

The new project, called *Growing Together: A Tree Stewardship & Workforce Development Program*, will expand local tree canopy, establish two public food forests and provide workforce development opportunities to community members in the Alegre, Victory Acres, University Heights and Escalante neighborhoods and the Town of Guadalupe. Details at tempe.gov/SustainableTempe in the news section.

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COMMENTARY

Taking a stand against human trafficking

By Mark Stewart



Chandler has joined forces with other cities, police departments and nonprofits across the Valley to take a stand against human trafficking.

We're using state funding that equips police with technology and investigative resources to eradicate human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Your Mayor and Council are dedicated to

supporting efforts that protect our community and our children.

Thanks to the efforts of State Representative Julie Willoughby last year, the Chandler Police Department is investing \$2 million in technology and staff support for high-priority criminal cases.

This funding, coupled with city-led investment, is enabling us to hire investigators and latent print examiners to support police investigations for criminal cases, including Internet Crimes Against Children, human trafficking, cold case sex crimes, homicides and latent prints.

We've acquired software licenses to prevent and investigate Internet Crimes Against Children, and we're purchasing a criminal justice video management system that enables secure file sharing for investigations.

I am a board member of two anti-human trafficking organizations, Not In Our City and CeCe's Hope Center. As part of my commitment to the cause, I toured our police headquarters to learn more about our focus.

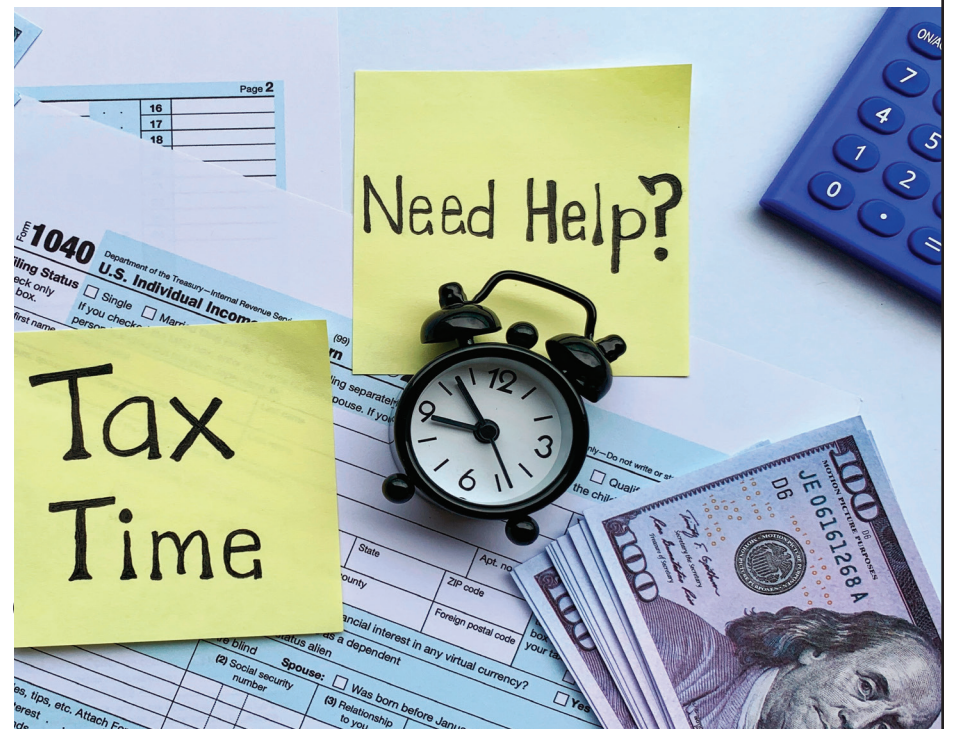
During a recent tour, Interim Police Chief Melissa Deanda announced that Chandler is in the process

Need help filing your taxes?

Chandler is partnering with Mesa United Way and Azura for its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA helps working families who earned less than \$64,000 in 2023 with free tax preparation and filing services. There are eight sites open in Chandler and we're ready to assist. Learn more: chandleraz.gov/VITA.



new ad to



of acquiring technology for a state-of-the-art crime center. The center will have a video wall as its focal point, which will display information from multiple police systems. The system will integrate with police radios to show the real-time location of officers, enabling greater visibility during police incidents. This will ultimately improve the safety of our officers on the street.

Chandler joined the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network and, last year became a Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) Designated City. This group is dedicated to equipping cities across Arizona with essential tools and resources to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation effectively.

We achieved this designation because more than 75 percent of city employees completed comprehensive training on how to identify, report and prevent human trafficking crimes. This designation solidifies our dedication to safeguarding neighborhoods and our shared vision of an Arizona where no one is bought, sold or exploited.

Proper training is instrumental for residents to comprehend the challenges victims face, so we can transition from awareness to taking effective action.

Visit the Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network for information about resources available to identify potential victims and those engaged in trafficking activities.

As you go about your day, if you see something that doesn't seem right, report it to the Chandler Police Department. Be a good neighbor by reporting who or what you saw, when you saw it, where it occurred and why it's suspicious.

Call or text 9-1-1 to report emergencies. Call or text 480-782-4130 to report non-emergencies. Anonymous tips, including images and video, can be submitted to Chandler Police via the "submit a tip" link or mobile app at ChandlerAZPD.gov.

Your Mayor and Council are committed to public safety and equipping the men and women of our police force with the tools they need to be the best-in-class organization that they are and keep our community as safe as possible.

Together, we can make a difference in the fight against Human Trafficking.

Mark Stewart is a member of the Chandler City Council.

Tempe Diablos reveal finalists for Excellence in Education awards

Kyrene school officials have announced finalists for the Tempe Diablos' 2024 Excellence in Education Awards.

Recipients will be honored at a dinner and awards celebration at the Showroom at Gila River Wild Horse Pass on May 2.

Winners include:

- Ashley Faber, Kyrene de la Paloma Arts Integration Academy
- Victoria Malone, Kyrene Centennial Middle School High Impact
- Sharon Hall, Kyrene Middle School
- Jamie Van Den burg, Kyrene Monte Vista Elementary School Lifetime
- Mark Collins, Kyrene Traditional Academy
- Donna Kosis, Kyrene Traditional Academy Leadership
- Dr. Stephanie Leake, Kyrene de la Paloma Arts Integration Academy
- Maria Salas Murphy, Kyrene del Norte Dual Language Academy



You're invited:

Tempe is considering updates on code regulations that allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and is seeking additional public input. This code sets the rules for building extra living spaces like casitas or creating separate rental units on existing properties. Right now, only a limited number of properties qualify to build ADUs; a possible code update that could expand their use is being considered.

Join us at upcoming meetings; the same information will be shared at all meetings.

Virtual

Wednesday, March 27, Noon

In person

Wednesday, March 27, 5:30-7 p.m. Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road

Tuesday, April 2, 6 – 7:30 p.m. North Tempe Multi-Generational Center
1555 N. Bridalwreath St.

Monday, April 8, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Arizona 811, 1405 W. Auto Dr.

Take the online survey from March 27 - May 1 at tempe.gov/ADU. To request a paper copy, phone survey, one-on-one meeting or special meeting accommodation, call 480-350-8234.

RSVP for the online meeting and find a helpful FAQ at tempe.gov/ADU.

¡Estás invitado!

Tempe está considerando actualizaciones sobre las regulaciones del código que permiten las Unidades de Vivienda Accesorias (ADU, por sus siglas en inglés). Este código establece las reglas para construir espacios habitables adicionales como casitas o unidades de alquiler separadas de propiedades existentes. Ahora, un número limitado de propiedades califican para construir una ADU; una actualización posible del código podría ampliar su uso está siendo considerado.

Únase con nosotros en las próximas reuniones: se compartirá la misma info en todas las reuniones.

Virtual

Miércoles, 27 de marzo, Mediodía

En persona

Miércoles, 27 de marzo, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road

Martes, 2 de abril, 6 – 7:30 p.m. -North Tempe Multi-Generational Center
1555 N. Bridalwreath St.

Lunes, 8 de abril, 5:30 – 7 p.m. Arizona 811, 1405 W. Auto Dr.

Responda a la encuesta en línea del 27 de marzo al 1 de mayo en tempe.gov/ADU. Para pedir una copia impresa, una encuesta telefónica, una reunión individual o adaptaciones para reuniones especiales, llame al 480-350-8234.

Confirme su asistencia a la reunión en línea y encuentre una útil sección de preguntas frecuentes en tempe.gov/ADU.



FROM CHASING TO RACING

Former ASU walk-on to Life in the Fast Lane



BY ANDREW LWOWSKI
Special for Wrangler News

From chasing on the football field to racing on the track, hometown athlete Kellen Mills has pivoted his athletic abilities to a whole new career.

Mills, who was once an All-State fullback for Mesa Mountain View High School and standout defensive end for Arizona State, traded in his shoulder pads for

a firesuit. Though his pitstop to motor sports was an unexpected one, his athletic background and drive in the weight room is unquestionably what propelled him.

Mills played a variety of roles for the Toros, ranging from fullback to center to tight end.

During that time, he developed a passion for Olympic weightlifting, and unbeknownst to him, would later lift him to his next chapter.

Working as a jack-man for NASCAR's No. 43 Cup Series team, Kellen Mills plays a key role in the team's success, both on and off the track.

All Photos courtesy of Joe Gibbs Racing.

— Please turn to Page 18



– From page 16

While at ASU, Mills found his calling as defensive end and played a vital role for the Sun Devils defense. Joe Kenn, ASU's strength coach, took notice of the 6-foot-3 Mills, who was not only gifted athletically but ahead of his time in the weight room.

Following his tenure at ASU, Kenn assumed the same role for the Carolina Panthers while simultaneously building connections with those involved with motor sports. Kenn introduced Mills to the idea of racing. However, talks were halted as Mills embarked on a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Once back, he took on construction. That's when he received the call that would change his life.

"It was, like, the end of the day, I think on a Thursday, and I got a phone call: 'Oh, here we go,'" Mills recalled. He was presented the opportunity to once again try out, only this time for a NASCAR pit crew in North Carolina.

Once he got his affairs in order, Mills flew cross-country and began taking practice reps for no pay before attending pit school in the evenings. His accent would quickly accelerate as he transitioned from backup pit members in IndyCar racing to full-time pit school. He later switched to NASCAR, where he was a gasman for Team Penske.

Still wanting to climb the ranks as a pit crew member, he switched Team Joe Gibbs in 2019. Gibbs, an NFL and NASCAR Hall of Famer, was well aware of Mills' aspirations to become a jack-man and allowed him the liberty.

Since switching and taking on a leadership role in pit lane, Mills' group has ranked among the best in NASCAR. But his success has been all in the preparation, and Mills drew the uncanny connections between powerlifting and operations in the pit lane.

"The mental approach, the gauging of intensity, all that kind of stuff, I think really aligns very well to pitting race cars," he said. "You have a lot of downtime, but when the moment comes, you have just a slight window of time to prepare; then it's your time to go

execute. You need to go out and you need to have a very high output but very accurate performance. And I believe the two of them actually have a lot of carryovers that I don't think many people realize.

"Even just the level of analysis that we'd have going into a film session, let's say from football and Olympic lifting, like 'Sit there and both record or list your record practice, and they're just like sitting down and saying, 'Okay, there's time there.'"

There's time there. There's improvement to be had there...watching stops like, 'Okay, I could cut that a little tighter,' or 'I don't see why he's doing that.'"

Mills' past has been crucial to his success in the pit lane, and his life appears to be going as fast as the cars he services. From gas-man to jack-man,

Mills now leads one of the best teams in the NASCAR Cup Series. The East Valley native made his return for the Phoenix Raceway, where his team, under Erik Jones, placed 31st.

Mills still resides in Arizona with his wife and two children.

It's Bike Month. All aboard!

Cover story

April is Bike Month and Tempe is celebrating with programs and events for virtually every committed—or possibly would-be—bike lover.

Residents can nominate a Tempe Bike Hero, celebrate biking at Tempe Bicycle Action Group and Cul de Sac's PedalPalooza, take a solo ride along on one of the city's multi-use paths or participate in any or all other Bike Month activities.

Whether biking through downtown Tempe or riding along one of the city's off-street paths designed to be low-stress, it's being heralded the perfect time of year to discover the many benefits of biking in Tempe and celebrate Bike Month.

Tempe Bike Hero nominations—Nominate a Tempe Bike Hero, someone who makes life better for Tempe's two- (or three-) wheeled community. Whether it's done in a low-key manner or with public applause, Tempe wants to honor a person or organization that promotes

the bicycling way.

Nominations are being accepted now through April 30. Nominated individuals must live or work in Tempe and nominated organizations must be located in Tempe.

Pedal Palooza — Culdesac and the Tempe Bicycle Action Group are gearing up for PedalPalooza 2024, a free celebration of cycling camaraderie 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Culdesac Tempe, 2011 E Apache Boulevard.

Attendees can enjoy bike games, refuel at food trucks and groove to pedal-worthy beats. Free bike tune-ups and bicycle safety training will ensure everyone's wheels are in top-notch condition while staying safe on the road.

Highlight of the event is expected to be an all-levels "No-Drop 6-Mile Group Ride."

Tempe's public art program — LeMonde Studios' Light Lane, an interactive art installation is coming downtown Tempe April 3-30. The event combines bikes, music and visual art through nine stationary bicycles that activate Mill Avenue with light and sound when powered by pedal. Featuring artist-designed projections and songs from Tempe Playlist musicians, the event is said to have all-local origins. Bikes will be available for free to the public 24/7. Information: tempe.gov/LightLane.

Stay safe — Refresh your memory about the rules of the road. Whether you are out and about on your bicycle, walking or driving, remember these simple tips.

- Be aware, be seen and be safe: All share responsibility on the road: see and be seen.
- Heads up, cell phones down: Distractions, such as cell phones, can cause eyes to be off the road and result in crashes.
- Drive and ride sober: Driving and biking under the influence doesn't pay. Make sure you have a safe way home.
- It's the law: Bikers and drivers both need to follow traffic laws, including obeying speed limits, paying attention to lights and stop signs and yielding to pedestrians.
- Ride with the flow of traffic: Whether in a bike lane or on a sidewalk, be sure to ride with the flow of traffic, not against it.
- Give three feet: Allow for at least three feet of clearance when passing bicyclists

Find more bicycle safety tips by visiting tempe.gov/bike.

BIKE MONTH TEMPE

Bike Hero
March 1 - April 30
Nominations Accepted

tempe.gov/BikeMonth

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Crackdown by police aims to slow rise in deadly outcomes from street racing

Staff reports

As much as speed, reckless and impaired driving are known to result in traffic fatalities, Tempe and Phoenix police agree that street racing has become yet another a major focal point for stepped-up enforcement.

Reports say that dozens to hundreds of street racers increasingly take to area streets at high speeds, sometimes commandeering intersections for what appears to be a thrill sport causing worrisome new concern.

Tempe police are reported to be working closely with Phoenix PD's street racing task force and the Arizona Department of Public Safety to end what they consider a highly dangerous activity.

On a recent weekend, Tempe officers reported arresting 5 people, towing 14 vehicles and seizing two guns during an enforcement operation aimed at cracking down on their city's version of the problem.

A video from Tempe PD shows a driver doing so-called "burnouts" in a crowded parking lot, then



crashing the car only feet away from pedestrians.

Said Tempe Police Chief Kenneth McCoy in responding to questions about how his department is facing the problem:

"...I am committed to addressing the issue of street racing and its associated crimes.

"We will take proactive measures, collaborate with local agencies, and employ innovative strategies to effectively combat this dangerous activity.

The number of high-speed drivers is one of Tempe residents' top concerns, he said, referring to a ranking to a recent report, ranking just below homelessness issues and drugs.

To address that concern and protect people in the community, Tempe Police have launched a

program that emphasizes enforcement, technology and education.

Deputy City Manager Greg Ruiz, who oversees community health and public safety, added emphasis to what McCoy had to say about the problem.

"Street racing isn't acceptable in our community. It's not only deadly for those racing, but for the other people on our roads, whether they are driving, biking or walking," he said.

In 2023, Tempe police were reported to have issued 259 citations that involved racing, speeds of more than 85 mph, reckless driving and speeds more than 20 miles an hour over the speed limit.

An initiative called Operation Slow Down started in January. The program, which is designed to run

through March, has an emphasis on speeding and red-light violations.

More than 1,200 traffic stops have been made as of the time this article was prepared, with a goal of educating people and instilling a sense of responsibility to those behind the wheel. Approximately 500 of those resulted in the issuance of a citation.

Tempe is known to be one of 45 cities across the nation to also participate in Vision Zero, an effort to reduce or eliminate the number of serious and injuries caused by collisions.

Through that initiative, Tempe has targeted 14 intersections for intensive traffic enforcement. These locations were chosen based on a statistical analysis of a higher propensity for collisions. Officials overseeing the program say it is easy to see

where these areas are located by looking for the large yellow Vision Zero banners along the roadway.

In 2023, according to an accounting, there were approximately 50 vehicle collisions in Tempe, resulting in 24 fatalities. It is believed that excessive speed was a factor in 18 of those collisions.

It isn't only police involvement that works to improve these areas, however.

Traffic engineers use the data to diagnose potential safety issues and implement countermeasures to improve safety.

Tempe officers also visit schools and community groups to educate people on the consequences of high speed.

The city of Tempe is exploring the use of speed and red light cameras to encourage people to slow down, an approach that studies have shown to

employ technology that works. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, they can reduce crashes by more than 50%.

Still awaiting implementation, Tempe plans to launch a real-time operations center this summer, where technology can pool traffic, park and facilities cameras so that police can review footage to determine what happened traffic incidents, resolve crimes and tend to infrastructure needs, like graffiti removal or replacing landscaping.

Tempe is said to be the third city in Maricopa County to plan using this technology, but the first to utilize it for issues beyond solving crimes.

"Everyone deserves to get home safely," said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods. "We are using all the resources available to us to make our streets safer for everyone."



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Choir members, from left, Keith Lawson; retired Cantilena director Dr. Dave Thye; Katie Lawson; JD Lawson .

— Photo courtesy Arizona Cantilena Chorale

A homegrown chorale anchors a family in music . . . and strengthens the community, too

For the Lawsons, music is a family affair.

Keith, a tenor, sings in the West Chandler-based Arizona Cantilena Chorale, chairs its

board, and is Dad to JD, a chorale baritone, and Katie, an alto/mezzo-soprano and the board's secretary.

Keith's wife, Nan, is treasurer and the nonprofit's go-to for pretty much everything.

The Lawsons and other Cantilena singers will perform for the first time at Mesa Arts Center next month.

"Love Waltzed In" is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, in MAC's Piper Repertory Theater, 1 E. Main St.

Tickets: www.mesaartscenter.com (search Cantilena).

But one important family member, whom



By Janie Magruder

Keith says was the most talented vocalist among his clan, won't be there. His first wife, Loretta, the mother of JD and Katie, died in 2004 of inflammatory breast cancer, shortly after her 40th birthday.

Rest assured, Loretta is alive in their memories, and in their music.

"Mom would be thrilled that the three of us are still singing together," said JD, of Tempe. "I do think about what it would be like if she were here singing with us, because I know she would love to be a part of it."

The history of a musical family

Keith and Loretta met as students at Corona del Sol High, and she went on to attend Mesa Community College, taking

voice lessons and singing in a community chorus.

After marrying in 1984, the outgoing Loretta, an alto/mezzo-soprano, and the quiet Keith began their lives, singing duets at church, joining various choirs, and eventually starting a family.

Firstborn JD loved when his mother sang “Baby Beluga,” a tune he sings to his son, Jonathan, 3.

JD was a ready performer, Keith said.

“He would come home from kindergarten and say, ‘I learned a new song today, and I want you to sit down on the couch, and I’ll sing it for you,’” he said.

Katie arrived about three years later, and was partial to “La La Lu” from “Lady and the Tramp,” especially the part about the pink cloud.

The family’s home was filled with piano music and singing, and the kids, with Katie in a carrier, often tagged along to their folks’ rehearsals.

“Loretta and I had so much fun in singing groups and practicing on the piano,” Keith said.

“I feel like the kids looked up and said, ‘That looks fun, I want some of that.’”

They got it: JD and Katie grew up singing and playing cello and flute, respectively, in their schools, including in Dobson High’s choirs, orchestra and marching bands.

But in 2000, Loretta was diagnosed with an aggressive type of breast cancer and given 18 months to live. She kept on for four years, always remaining upbeat for her family.

The evolution of Cantilena

The chorale was established in 2005 as Schola Cantorum by the late Dr. Glenn Bennett, a longtime choral director at Mesa Community College.

The name was changed to Arizona Cantilena Chorale in 2015 and upon Bennett’s retirement in 2018, Dr. Dave Thye became artistic director and principal conductor.

Listening to music — especially live music — is good for you, according to Cantilena alto Wendy Janzen, who has a master’s degree in flute performance. She cited recent developments in cognitive neuroscience.

Over 20 years, the group’s 25 members have performed more than 50 concerts, from Broadway tunes and Puccini’s “Messa di Gloria” to opera and “Video Games Live,” and in more than nine languages, from African dialects to Russian.

A highlight was inviting students from high schools in nearby cities to join in a performance of Handel’s “Messiah” at St. Mary’s Basilica in Phoenix in 2022.

“We wanted to give young people who sang in high school and had a lot of fun, but didn’t see any possibility to continue this endeavor,—the opportunity to sing at a high level, with an orchestra,” Keith said.

When Thye retired last year, Dr. David Schildkret, recently retired as ASU’s director of choral activities, was installed as Cantilena’s artistic director, joining Dr. Robert Mills, ASU music professor and vocal coach/accompanist for its Lyric Opera.

At the MAC concert, world-renowned pianist Russell Ryan will join Mills in four-hand piano compositions, the “Liebeslieder Walzer,” by Brahms.

The health benefits of live music

Listening to music — especially live music — is good for you, according to Cantilena alto Wendy Janzen, who has a master’s degree in flute performance She

cited recent developments in cognitive neuroscience that show:

The brain is jazzed by music, according to a Harvard Health blog.

Music activates nearly all of the brain, from the auditory cortex in the temporal lobes near your ears and the parts involved in emotion, to a variety of memory regions and the motor system.

Music can help strengthen those networks involved in well-being, learning, cognitive function, quality of life and happiness.

The only other way to trigger as many brain networks at once is participating in social activities. (A two-for-one: Attend a concert with friends.)

Just being in a concert venue can reduce stress by decreasing the release of cortisol and other stress hormones.

You may experience a lowering of your heart and respiratory rates and blood pressure, too, researchers say.

The excitement of attending a live performance can prompt your brain to release endorphins, which essentially turns off pain.

Walking to and from the venue, jumping up and down during the show, and dancing to your favorite songs — all good exercise.

Live music can produce a sense of connection and community, beneficial to your mental outlook and longevity, and provide opportunities to reflect on life. Music takes you back in time to when you first heard a song, and helps you relive those times.

Coincidentally, the Arizona Cantilena Chorale’s April 13 concert program includes the Beatles’ “All You Need is Love” — my high school class song.

Janie Magruder is an ASU journalism graduate, a former longtime Arizona Republic reporter and regular contributor to Wrangler News.



SPORTS NOTEBOOK

120-plus stronger, Aztec runners looking good

With Alex Zener



Corona's girls and boys track and field team attracted over 300 athletes this spring, 120 more than last season. Many of these are freshmen and sophomores who, after just a few weeks of training, are starting to hit their stride.

"We have a very young team this season, on both the boys and girls side," said boys head coach **Pat Scott**. "We only have 45 senior athletes combined. Over 60% of the rest are freshmen and sophomores who were not all that familiar with what's involved in participating in a high school track and field event when they joined."

"We've had a bit of a learning or teaching curve these last few weeks but we will be more competitive as the season progresses and as our athletes grow within the sport," said Scott.

The young athletes have been gaining valuable experience participating and competing in invitationals every week since their own Aztec Invitational, where they competed against 11 teams, with the boys finishing in sixth place.

The Aztecs also competed at the Devon Allen Invitational, hosted by Brophy College Preparatory, against 40 teams and next at the Red Mountain Rampage against 22 teams, once again taking sixth place. Some athletes have started to separate themselves from the pack in different racing events, including the sprinters, mid-distance runners and distance runners.

"Currently, our top sprinters are freshman **Brandon Holmes**, senior **Cameron Guss** and senior **Zuri Glenn**," said Scott. "Besides providing team points in the shorter distance events, they should help us be able to formulate some competitive relays teams."

For instance, Holmes was the Aztecs' top runner in the 100 meters at the Aztec Invitational and Guss was second in the same race.

The 4x100 relay team of Holmes, junior **Domonick Ruiz**, Glenn and sophomore **Jude**

Stevens crossed the finish line in fifth place at the Aztec Invitational and then the 4x100 relay team of Guss, Holmes, Ruiz and Glenn came in eighth at the Red Mountain Rampage. The mid-distance group has lots of young talent that will shock some people over the next few years," said Scott. "For instance, sophomore **Aidan Bingham** is one of the top talents on the team, and with athletes like freshman **Ethan Celaya** and sophomore **Josh Wiesner**, we will continue to grow and improve in that category." Bingham was the top finisher and Celaya was second at the Aztec Invitational in the 400-meter race.

"Some of the best helpers and mentors on our team come from the distance crew," said Scott. "Seniors **Zach Wiesner**, **Stephen Brown** and **Sean Waters** do an amazing job encouraging young talents like freshmen **Santiago Araiza** and **Elijah Rawson**. We are blessed to have individuals like them on our team."

Waters was the top finisher for Corona in the 800 and 1600 meters at the Aztec Invitational while Rawson and Araiza were right behind Waters in the 1600 meters. Brown was Corona's top finisher in the 3200 meters at the Aztec Invitational, while Araiza was next in line followed by freshman **Thomas Ash**.

"Junior **Ryan McVaugh** and sophomore **Gabriel Castillo** are already a couple of the top hurdlers in the state," said Scott. "As the season progresses, these two will only get better and be able to help our team score points."

McVaugh crossed the finish line in 6th place in the 110m hurdles at the Aztec event while Castillo raced in the 300m hurdle event finishing 10th.

"Corona has a history of doing well in the relay races," said Scott. "Last year, for instance, we broke the school record in the boys 4x400m relay."

"Unfortunately, we graduated most of that 4x400 crew and a good portion of our other relay teams, as well," he said. The 4x400 relay team of Zach Wiesner, Bingham, Castillo and Celaya crossed the finish line in seventh place at the Aztec event, while the 4x400 relay team of Celaya, junior **Asher Chacon**, Josh Wiesner and sophomore **Jamal Strayhand** placed ninth at the Rampage.

"We are still sorting through the young talent we have on this year's team to see who will work out

to be the best runners on each of our relay teams," said Scott. "In the past, we have been good at getting the right runner on the track for each relay team and getting the baton competitively around the track, so I feel good about our potential in the relay races going forward."

"It's been a while since we've been able to say this but we will most likely be relying on our field events to carry the team this year," said Scott.

"We have one of the state's best long jumpers, **Zuri Glenn**, to lead ours," said Scott. "In addition, playing in the sand with Glenn are some other great jumpers, including **Dominick Ruiz**, **Cameron Guss** and senior **Cory Block**. Glenn set a personal record of 22-11.00 ft to take first place at the Aztec Invitational while Guss was 18th with a long jump of 19-05.50 ft.

Ruiz took 1st place in the triple jump, clearing 42-00.00 and 8th place at the Aztec invitational in the long jump with a jump of 21-00.25 ft. Block triple jumped 40-05.50 to take third place at the Aztec Invitational while senior **Sebastian Martinez-Moreno** was 12th.

"We also have the big men stepping up to score us some points in the throwing events, including junior **Keane Abril**, senior **Malcolm Flynn**, senior **Jose Chavez**, freshman **Colin Duffy**, and junior **Filipe Ma'ake**. Corona had three of these athletes finish in the top seven in the discus at the Aztec Invitational. Abril had a throw of 140.06 to take third place while Chavez was 6th and freshman Colin Duffy was 7th. Ma'ake finished in the top 20.

Flynn took 7th place in the javelin at the Aztec Invitational with a throw of 137-03 ft. while sophomore **Aidan Gattie** was 10th, junior **Landen Sutton** took 12th place and junior **Benjamin Martinez** finished in 17th place out of 33 athletes who competed. Overall, we have a good mix of good future talent combined with some great veteran athletes that will ensure we finish the season strongly while getting ready for future seasons," said Scott. "There's a lot of excitement for us right now and it's an exciting time to be an Aztec in the track and field sport."

Up next, Corona will compete at the 84th NIKE Chandler Rotary Invitational held March 22 and March 23 at the Chandler High School outdoor track.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PUBLISHER



For 30-plus years, Wrangler News has brought neighborhood-centric information (and enjoyment) to the residents of South Tempe and West Chandler.

After all these years, we get as much pleasure from our work as we did publishing that very first edition. What brings us the greatest reward, however, is knowing that we've built long-lasting relationships with the business owners, writers, photographers — and readers like you — who tell us they love what we do as much as the way we do it: With the same kind of neighborly devotion you'd expect from, well, good neighbors. Just like we'll continue to be in the years ahead.



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March, April public meetings to offer a forum for input on added dwellings

Tempe is considering updates on zoning code regulations that allow Accessory Dwelling Units.

Staff is seeking input at public meetings and through an online survey in March and April.

An ADU is an independent, smaller, rentable dwelling unit located on the same lot as an existing, stand-alone single-family home. In 2019, Tempe was among the first cities in Arizona to approve an ordinance adopting new regulations for ADUs.

The current Zoning and Development Code permits ADUs on Multi-Family zoned properties that already have a single-family home, which limits the number of properties citywide that qualify. Updates being considered would expand ADU eligibility to include Single-Family Residential-zoned properties.

Residents can share feedback at virtual and in-person meetings; the same information will be available at all meetings.

Participants will hear details about preliminary concepts tailored to Tempe.

The city will also address topics of interest conveyed by residents during the first round of feedback, such as parking, restricting use as short-term rentals or the frequency of building permits based on staff research.

Public feedback will be used to help shape a final draft to be presented to the City Council.

Virtual: Wednesday, March 27 at noon.

In person: Wednesday, March 27, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road

Tuesday, April 2, 6 - 7:30 p.m. North Tempe Multi-Generational Center, 1555 N. Bridalwreath St.

Monday, April 8, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Arizona 811, 1405 W. Auto Dr.

Residents can also provide input through an online survey available from March 27 - May 1 at tempe.gov/ADU. To request a paper copy, phone survey, one-on-one meeting or special meeting accommodations, call 480-350-8234. RSVP for the online meeting and find a helpful FAQ at tempe.gov/ADU.

To date, the city has gathered public feedback through two meetings and an online survey.

The city has also maintained an ADU webpage that provides regular updates. In addition, the city's Neighborhood Advisory Commission voted to recommend proceeding with further research and draft ADU regulations. Find results from the first round of public input at tempe.gov/ADU.

As directed by the City Council last year, city staff has been conducting further analysis and research about the potential expansion of ADUs. Councilmembers also asked for deeper community outreach to ensure that residents, HOA leaders and other stakeholders have ample opportunities to share their input on city plans.

Tempe is among a number of cities in the state looking to ADUs to address needs such as:

- Increasing the city's affordable housing stock with alternate smaller housing units
- Creating housing diversity with this alternate housing type
- Adding incremental density while maintaining the character of a neighborhood
- Providing opportunities for multi-generational living
- Allowing for aging in place
- Helping generate a new source of income for homeowners

Following the public input period, next steps include drafting ADU regulations and concepts for consideration by the City Council.

A future Work Study Session will be scheduled with City Council for further guidance.

Sign up for ADU updates delivered to your inbox at <https://email.tempe.gov/adu>.

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SARRC Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

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DIVERSIONS

Sunset Library among sites for celebration of jazz month

Jazz Appreciation Month will fill Chandler's events calendar in April, with activities for virtually every interest and age group.

For enjoyment specially focused on West Chandler/South Tempe residents is a concert on April 16 at Sunset Library—Family Storytime Jazz, perfect for kids 5 and under.

The program starts at 6 p.m., accompanied by an opportunity to engage in crafts on the library patio, a walk around Sunset Park to read the story walk or play musical instruments in the Music Garden.

Additionally and likewise close to area residents are Jazz on the Move and Young Artist Jazz Showcase concert series, as well as activities at Chandler Museum and other city libraries.

The music-themed month kicks off with Chandler Jazz Festival, April 4-7, featuring local and national artists.

There will be bands playing throughout downtown Chandler during all four days of the event. Locations for scheduled sidewalk bands are d'Vine Gourmet; Saba's Western Wear; Crust Simply Italian; and Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West.

Venues are within walking distance of each other.

On Thursday, April 4, and Saturday, April 6, there will also be performances at New Square, located between Arizona Avenue and Oregon Street, north of Chicago Street.

Eve more music is scheduled April 6, featuring local and national artists at the Main Stage at A.J. Chandler Park

Live jazz music is scheduled at these dates and times:

- Thursday, April 4: New Square and sidewalk bands from 5:30-7 p.m.



- Friday, April 5: Sidewalk bands from 5-7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 6: Sidewalk bands from 2-4:30 p.m.; New Square from 3-5 p.m.; Main Stage as follows:

5 p.m., Nash Vocal Jazz Ensemble
6:10 p.m., Brandon Sanders Quartet
7:30 p.m., Cocomama
9:05 p.m., The Power Trio

- Sunday, April 7: Sidewalk bands from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Those attending are encouraged to visit one of Downtown Chandler's restaurants and bars before and after the scheduled band performances.

On Saturday at the Main Stage, vendors will sell food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Guests can bring their own blankets and lawn chairs on Saturday, as well as sealed bottled water and snacks. Alcohol is prohibited at the Main Stage.

Also scheduled throughout April:

Jazz on the Move, a concert series that will bring live music into Chandler neighborhoods. The Tuesday and Thursday performances will take place on the following dates and locations from 5:30-7 p.m.

- Thursday, April 11 – Beth & Jazz Con Alma, Chandler Museum, 300 S. Chandler Village Drive.
- Tuesday, April 16 – Ioannis Goudelis Trio, Sunset Library 4930 W. Ray Road
- Thursday, April 25 – Adam Clark Quartet, Veterans Oasis Park, 4050 E. Chandler Heights Road
- Tuesday, April 30 – Mike Ozuna Trio, San Marcos Elementary School, 451 W. Frye Road

On Tuesday, April 11, the Chandler Museum will extend its operating hours to 7:30 p.m. April 6 through May 26 to allow visits to the museum store and its themed exhibition, Shutter and Sound: Jazz Photography of Bob Willoughby.

A concert on April 16 at Sunset Library will be part of Family Storytime Jazz for ages 5 and under.

New this year, according to planners, is a program available at all events that allows kids and adults to be involved in jazz-themed activities. Participants will be entered into a drawing for an art kit – the winner must be present to win.

Also scheduled during the month will be performances by musicians from area high schools at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park West. Performances will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7 p.m.

April 10 – Basha Varsity Jazz Band; April 17 – Perry High School Jazz I; and April 24 – Band TBA

Additionally, Chandler Public Library is hosting events suited for preschoolers to adults. All four library locations, including the Sunset Branch in West Chandler, will offer such events as a Memory Lane Jazz Movie Sing-a-long at Hamilton Library on April 19 from 10-11 a.m.

The downtown library also will feature a special Our Stories program by Charles Lewis and the Arizona Jazz Experience on April 27 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Lewis has performed in the Valley since the 1950s.

Historic home and Hayden Flour Mill due for environmental impact studies

Tempe is seeking public comment on upcoming environmental assessments at two city-owned historic properties: The 1880 Gonzales-Martinez House and the 1918 Hayden Flour Mill.

The studies will require ground disturbance, but city planners say they have determined that the work will have no adverse effects on either property.

As part of the project, planners plan to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment that requires ground-disturbing activities on 2.29 acres of city-owned land at 302 W. First St.

The project will include the recovery of 12 boring samples ranging from 1-10 feet deep for septic, gas, and soil testing.

The area involved is said not to be within a previously recorded archaeological site.

However, a recent Class III survey showed that the parcel contains the National Register of Historic Places-listed Gonzales-Martinez House; additionally, it is adjacent to two historic railroads and La Plaza, a large Hohokam village known to encompass buried habitation-related features eight borehole locations within a 1.22-acre area adjacent to known cultural resources.



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Community Resource Guide Find the activities, classes, locations and information you need.

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Submit a service request – let us know about street lights that are out, graffiti, code violations and more – tempe.gov/311 or download the app
In case of emergency: Call 9-1-1.

Tempe Police non-emergency line – 480-350-8311

Business resources/Tempe Economic Development

tempe.gov/EconomicDevelopment

Building permits

[Tempe.gov/Building Safety](https://tempe.gov/BuildingSafety)

CARE & HOPE Line

Those experiencing homelessness can get help by calling 480-350-8004

City parks

tempe.gov/parks

Downtown Tempe/ Mill Avenue information

DowntownTempe.com

Give or get help from local nonprofit agencies

tempe.gov/nonprofits

Homeless Solutions

Report an encampment or a person in crisis
tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness

Neighborhood Association/HOA information

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