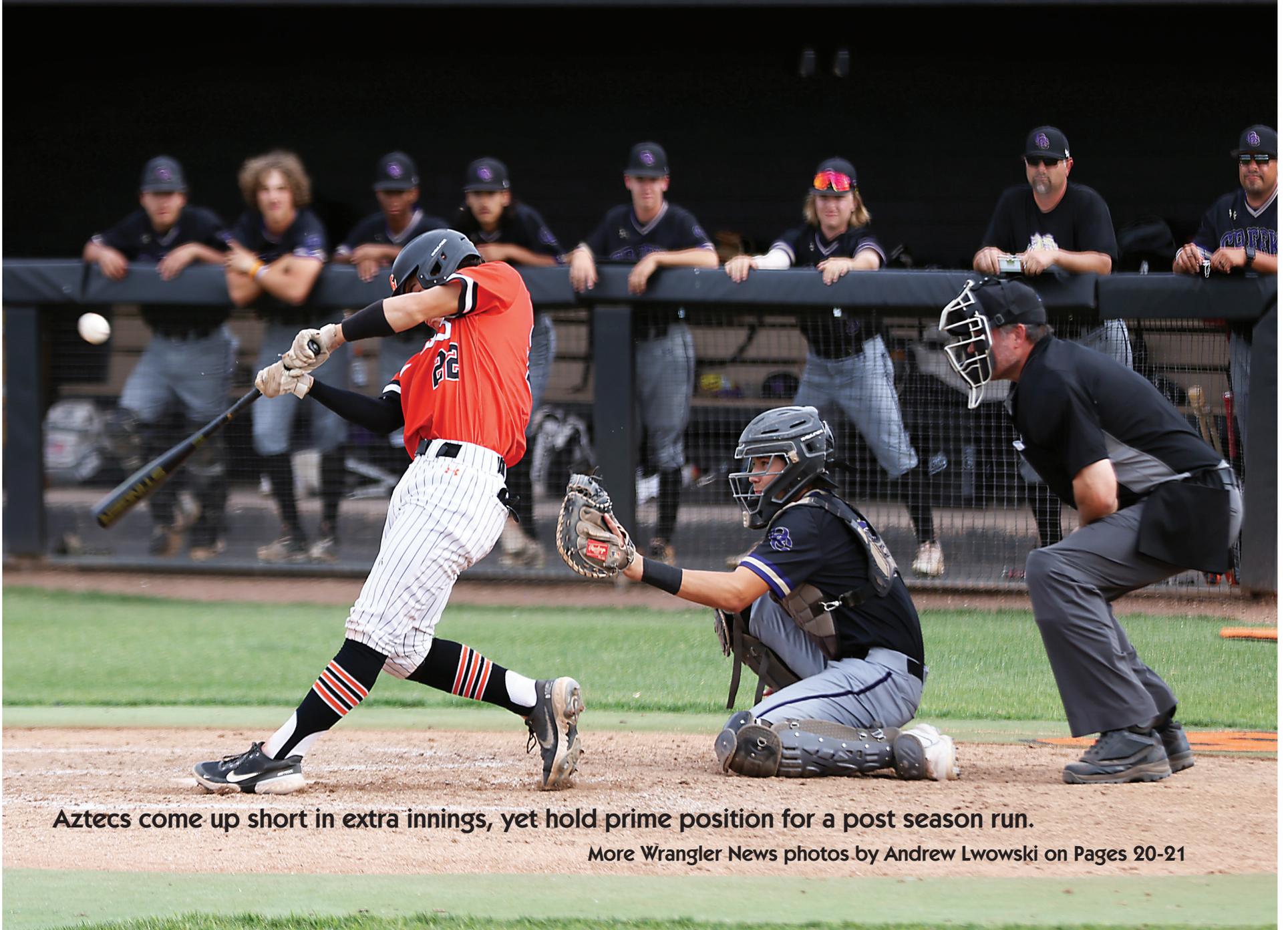




WRANGLER NEWS

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Aztecs come up short in extra innings, yet hold prime position for a post season run.

More Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski on Pages 20-21

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'Best life ever' unfolds for young cancer survivor

Tempe couple's initiative plays
a vital role in girl's recovery

By Janie Magruder



Elilai Ramarui agreed she was living her best 9-year-old life ever one recent weekend, romping in Los Angeles, appearing on television for National Pancake Day and zipping around on her hoverboard.

A year ago, Elilai's head was bald, her joints were sore, and her exhaustion was off the charts — all side effects of chemotherapy to treat a gut-punch cancer diagnosis the then-second grader got on March 14, 2022.

"She had a dream board that she made toward the end of chemo with Post-it notes on which she wrote things she wanted to do," said her mom, Melody Orak.

"Things like going to Target, playing with friends without a mask, visiting her cousins. There's only one Post-it left, and that's swimming."

Even more best-life living is on tap for Elilai: On May 6, she will blow the air horn to start the 10K run and the 5K run/walk as honorary race starter for Children's Cancer Network's 13th annual Run to Fight Children's Cancer (runtofightcancer.com) at Mesa Riverview Park.

What a difference a year makes.

Diagnosis and treatment

The journey began in February 2022 after Orak noticed a swollen place above her petite daughter's left elbow. A few days later, following an X-ray at their pediatrician's office, Orak and her husband



— Please turn to Page 6

— Orak family photo

Retired Anchorage chief will succeed Tempe predecessor

Kenneth McCoy, retired police chief in Anchorage, Alaska, has been named chief of the Tempe Police Department.

McCoy retired in 2022 as chief of the Anchorage department after 27 years of service. He is a U.S. Army veteran and served 10 years in the Alaska Army National Guard. He was honorably discharged as a captain in 2000.

McCoy has a Bachelor's degree in justice from the University of Alaska Anchorage and a certificate in Leading Diversity from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute.

"Being a good police chief takes law enforcement expertise, management skills, leadership abilities and an abundance of character.

Kenneth McCoy has those attributes and many more," said City Manager Andrew Ching, who announced the appointment. Currently, McCoy serves as a chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for Providence, a nonprofit healthcare organization in Alaska.

While with the Anchorage department, he served in command assignments in the Patrol and Detective Divisions and Internal Affairs. He has experience as a detective and a detective supervisor of violent crimes.

"I'm honored to be joining the Tempe Police Department as their new chief, and I can't wait



to connect with the community," McCoy said. "Together, we'll work to build an even safer, stronger and more united Tempe."

The search for a new Chief began in February following former Chief Jeff Glover's appointment by Gov. Katie Hobbs to serve as director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Tempe invited applications from internal and external candidates. They were Josie Montenegro, interim Police Chief in Tempe; Tom Worthy, police chief in The Dalles, Ore.; and retired Phoenix Police Commander Tom Van Dorn.

According to the Tempe City Charter, it is the city manager who has ultimate hiring authority for city employees, including hiring and management of the role of Police Chief.

"The Tempe Officers Assn. looks forward to working with Chief McCoy to keep Tempe safe and to create much-needed resources for the men and women answering the calls 24/7 every day," said TOA President Sgt. Rob Ferraro.

"We share the same goals – to make Tempe an example of how to work with the community as a 21st Century police force."

McCoy will begin work in Tempe on June 5.

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May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Tempe is bringing the community together for a 5k to learn ways to care for our bodies and brains

What: This is a family-friendly 5k walk/run you can complete at your own pace. No racing experience is necessary!



When: Saturday, May 6, 2023, from 8 am to 12pm.

Packet pick-up will begin at 7 a.m.

Race will start at 8:15am

Where: Kiwanis Park - Starting on the North side off Baseline Rd. and Ash Ave.

Cost: FREE!

Hang out after the 5k to learn more about resources available in Tempe schools and the community. Grab a sweet treat or a bite to eat with local vendors! registrations will be allowed on the day of the event, but supplies will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. To maintain safety and cleanliness, there will be NO PETS allowed on the course.

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Abel were advised to obtain an MRI of Elilai's arm.

Further testing at Phoenix Children's Hospital showed that the girl had Ewing sarcoma, a rare cancer that occurs in bones or in soft tissue around the bones. An estimated 1% of all childhood cancers in the U.S. are Ewing tumors, diagnosed in just 200 children — mostly teens — annually.

Chemotherapy began immediately — 12 weeks of it — at an outpatient facility, and the family learned more about blood counts, fever danger and hair loss than seemed possible.

"When she was first diagnosed, I was in freeze mode. Once we got direction, it was time to be tough. For me, there was no option not to be tough," Orak said.

She shaved her head in solidarity when her girl's long black hair began to fall. The family waded through Elilai's odd cravings — sweet Corn Pops, then cups of salty noodles, followed by a week of only steak.

At the end of chemo last summer, doctors decided she could not have surgery to remove the shrunken tumor because of her young age and small size. Rather, she would have 33 consecutive days of radiation and 16 more weeks of chemo.

"At first, radiation was her favorite treatment because she could do it in 15 minutes," Orak recalled.

"But then it started to hurt, to burn, and she would scream from the pain.

Moving forward one day at time

Elilai finished treatment on Nov. 15, and Orak began thinking ahead to January when her daughter would return to third grade at Summit School of Ahwatukee.

What did her classmates know about cancer? How could they help Elilai's return to this new "normal"?

Hospital staff referred Orak to Children's Cancer Network, which had myriad resources for families, among them, Honoring Our Peers Every Day. H.O.P.E. offers in-class, age-appropriate programming and was exactly what Orak was searching for.

The first time Orak met Tempe resident Patti Luttrell, executive director and co-founder of CCN, was in December.

The Ramaruis attended the first Winter Family Holiday Party in CCN's new Let's Move Center, which opened last May.

"Patti told me, 'Elilai is in this survivor space now, you can breathe a little bit.' It was so comforting because you forget to do that. You are just living in the moment for so long," Orak said.

Patti and her husband Steve, CCN's president, had their offices and warehouse on Kyrene Road



converted into a 3,000-square-foot activity center. It offers families inclusive, engaging and age-appropriate physical activities in a clean, safe, colorful space. There is free air hockey, foosball and pingpong, organized Nerf gun wars, laser tag, marshmallow wars and miniature golf, as well as arts and crafts activities and music.

"Physical activity is really the key to minimizing the side effects of treatment and maximizing good outcomes for many of these kids," Patti Luttrell said. "It's physically, emotionally and socially beneficial, and it boosts their ability to feel the best that they can."

The Let's Move Center was a "dream come true" to Melissa Millward, who found she could utilize the space for her 3-year-old son's birthday party last July after the clubhouse at their Tempe apartment became unsuitable.

"It was really important to me to have his birthday be great," said Millward, referring to Sebastian who, at 19 month old, was diagnosed with Stage 4 neuroblastoma on March 19, 2021. "When you go through something like this, you never know when it's going to be their last birthday. It's something you think about. I wanted that to be a fun day, a day just for him. Patti pretty much saved me."

Two years ago, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Millward and her husband Kent noticed a large bruise on the side of their boy's abdomen. When he started losing his appetite and behaving differently, she knew something was wrong.

A visit to the pediatrician, and further testing, confirmed the cancer growing in their baby's belly.

"I felt like there was a weight on my chest, and I didn't think I was going to survive," she said.

His treatment — chemotherapy, high-dose radiation and high-risk surgery — followed, as did two bone marrow transplants and immunotherapy. Sebastian finished on Nov. 14, 2022, and scans showed he is cancer-free, although close monitoring will follow for at least five years.

Millward is hoping her family can attend the Run to Fight, which also offers an honorary walk just for all ages of cancer survivors.

Nearly 1,000 participants, including 75 survivors and their families, are expected that day, said Patti Luttrell, noting that an estimated \$1 million has been raised through the race since its inception.

"The run brings awareness to childhood cancer and celebrates survivorship, and it honors those who have not survived their cancer," said Patti Luttrell, whose son Jeff, now 34, was diagnosed with leukemia at age 5.

"It's an opportunity to share with the community love and support for these families and increase resources available to them."

Run to Fight proceeds have funded two part-time family mental health therapists through for the past eight years. They provide counseling to young patients, their siblings and parents.

Overall, since its founding in 2005, CCN has provided more than \$8 million in financial assistance and support to Arizona families. Serving more than 800 families annually, CCN has distributed more than \$600,000 in gas and food cards and basic needs since 2013, and awarded 271 in post-secondary scholarships to survivors, siblings and parents since 2016.

Said Patti:

"Childhood cancer turns lives completely upside down, and it impacts everyone in the family, but each person reacts a little bit differently." "Moreover, incidences of PTSD are recognized, not just in patients, but in parents and siblings, too, and for up to several years after their treatment.

"The journey doesn't end when the chemo ends."

In March, Elilai was among childhood cancer survivors modeling in CCN's 20th annual Inspirations Fashion Show and Auction, one of its biggest, most popular fundraisers.

Soon, she'll be commanding the air horn on an early May morning.

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COMMENTARY

Landfill proposal: Viewpoints

Proposal 'not same kind of deal'

Know what the following people have in common? Harry Mitchell, Neil Giuliano, Hugh Hallman, Mark Mitchell, Dick Neuheisel, Don Cassano, Joseph Spracale, Linda Spears, Dennis Cahill, Barb Carter, Pam Goronkin, Hut Hutson, Shana Ellis, Robin Arredondo-Savage, and Onnie Shekerjian. All of these individuals, four former Mayors and 11 former Councilmembers, are voting YES on Propositions 301, 302 and 303. Here's why.

Over the last 20 years a variety of projects have been proposed for the land west of the Tempe Center for the Arts: Little League baseball fields; a soccer fields proposal; an arts mixed-use development; a white-water rapids proposal; a rare-bird aviary. For various reasons, none of these projects came to fruition. The costs to remediate over 70 years and 30 feet of accumulated trash on this site have been a major deterrent in attracting potential development.

Now, the Arizona Coyotes have proposed to build a hockey arena and a mixed-use entertainment district on these 46 acres. At no cost to Tempe residents. This is not the same Coyotes' owner and this is not the same kind of deal Glendale agreed to years ago. In Tempe's deal the Coyotes pay for their own arena, they authorize jobs to local unions during the construction and they guarantee payment of the bonds used to fund it. The Coyotes arena will be the only professional sports facility in the state of Arizona not funded by taxpayer dollars.

Your elected leaders have a fiduciary responsibility to conduct due-diligence on economic development proposals brought

forward that could put new revenues into the public purse. They must also be good stewards of the small amount of city-owned property that remains in our land-locked community. Tempe Town Lake, which was very divisive when proposed, represents the largest economic development project in Tempe, a project second only to the Grand Canyon as a visitors' destination.

Similarly, the Tempe Entertainment District would be the most financially impactful project for years to come. This on land that is currently generating not one penny for Tempe, nor anything for public schools. Former Mayor Hugh Hallman has worked pro-bono with the City to ensure this development agreement protects Tempe's taxpayers and honors the Inter-Governmental Agreement with Sky Harbor, which their leaders even agreed to in a public meeting months ago, only to renege and file a recent lawsuit pertaining to the residential component.

Incidentally, Tempe handles traffic for large events all the time: ASU games, Rock N'Roll Marathon, Iron Man, and the 2004 Presidential Debate. Coyotes are committed to working with the City to pay for additional transit and traffic mitigation to make their project successful. And acoustical experts know how to manufacture glass that blocks airplane noise in this flight corridor...merely step into Tempe Center of the Arts to hear this "sound of silence." Sky Harbor's complaints, similar to those they raised about a Cardinals' Stadium in Tempe, are basically "all noise" and another attempt to keep Tempe out of the professional sports business. Also, the Coyotes want to be in Tempe not on a Phoenix-proposed site. Coyotes also didn't want to sign a 20-year deal being pressed by Glendale, so

Glendale canceled their previous year-to-year agreement.

Yes, there will be a property tax abatement on this land as part of the deal; 8 years on the entertainment/mixed use portion and 30 years on the arena itself. This is not special treatment; the state approved it as an economic development tool for cities and towns years ago, and Tempe City Councils have used this same tool for dozens of developments that have become long-term economic engines for Tempe. Remember, currently the site is generating no tax at all! The Coyotes, like others with whom Tempe has used this tool, have agreed to pay an "in-lieu" sum for schools...and are also contributing \$2M to Tempe's affordable housing fund. An overlay on the District will generate sales tax on any purchase there, (a room charge; a t-shirt; a restaurant tab) which will be used for paying down the bonds. And Coyotes are paying an additional \$45M unrestricted, non-refundable deposit the first day they put a shovel in the ground.

All four former mayors going back to the 1980s support this proposal and its financial underpinnings. Agreeing with them are 11 former Councilmembers who served with them over a period of more than 30 years. That's a lot of cumulative experience vetting proposals and analyzing financial impacts for the City and saying VOTE YES! You

elected them in the past...and you should consider trusting their judgment now.

For more than a decade, I worked to move forward the Arts Tax proposal, and voters made the wise decision to tax themselves at 1/10th of a cent to remediate the land and build the iconic Tempe Center for the Arts, which effective next fall will be home to Arizona Theater Company. Why would those same voters hesitate now to support a proposal to build a Coyotes arena and entertainment district, at no cost to Tempe taxpayers? A complementary project that fulfills the vision for Tempe Town Lake and brings even more visitors and their money to our City! This is a project that will generate more than \$215 million in revenue to Tempe over the next 30 years. It will bookend development along the Salt River from Tempe Market Place on the east to the Tempe Entertainment District on the west, and it is said to be the highest and best use of the land per a third-party analysis.

Please join your former elected mayors and councilmembers...and Vote YES on Propositions 301, 302 and 303 on or before May 16th.

— Barbara J. Carter

Barbara J. Carter was a Tempe City Councilmember 2000-2008 and Vice-Mayor 2002-2004.

Discussion aimed at city's best interest

It is crazy how information gets translated about a project. Fear is more effective than the real info. Who doesn't like good gossip? However, the truth is that there is a reason why the Mayor and Council voted 7 – 0 in favor of the Tempe Entertainment District (TED) and same with the Tempe Development Review Commission. In addition, four past Mayors and a list of former council members, Tempe Chamber, Tempe Tourism, and the list goes on of supporters across the valley. I would highly encourage you to look at all information about the TED deal at www.tempe.gov/

TempeEntertainmentDistrict. I am giving you my view and understanding of the project and how I see things.

Let me explain, Mayor and Council were not always on the same page during this process. Simply put, this agreement was a battle. It was a battle to protect the city's best interest, and to get a deal that puts ABSOLUTELY no money on the taxpayer unless you choose to visit the complex and spend money. We sat through several meetings and had external financial experts help us understand and comb through all the points until we landed on a deal that satisfied all seven people on council who had different concerns from different viewpoints. With that said, I saw a deal that got scrutinized more than any other deal I have seen in my 15 years on Council.

I want to be clear this is not a handout to a billionaire, or anyone

else. Period.

To the contrary, this owner will be giving \$40 million to the city upon project start date and using over \$600 million of his own money. I would like to emphasize that the \$40 million can and will be used at the city's discretion that supports city needs.

I am born and raised in Tempe. I have lived in every zip code in this city. I am proud of the town we have created from all past and present councilmembers. Why do people choose to live here? We have everything a city needs (great schools, parks, pathways, churches, major college, sporting events, vibrant downtown, the lake and all the activities around it). We are a land-locked city and we must maximize the most of our land to provide the best use for this city. Downtown Tempe is the only place where we can expand this opportunity. A bustling city that has everything you need produces revenues to handle quality services, like roads, infrastructure, trash pickup, public safety, and public works. The core services the city needs to provide. We aim to increase additional services, for example, affordable housing, crisis response for homelessness, mental health, and addiction. This project will maximize that opportunity.

Could this land be left as is, or used for something else? Sure, but at what cost? And this cost will surely come from you, the taxpayer. I keep hearing that "this is not a toxic landfill", and if it is, it "only contains construction materials". The fact is, we don't even know what's under the 46+ acres that must be remediated - and no one does until it's remediated. We also don't know if this landfill is lined. So, if there are things in there that could hurt the water table, then the city, YOU, the taxpayer will be on the hook for this cost. This would take away from other core services

the city needs to provide. Are you comfortable taking the gamble? Will someone else come along with another development who has the money to do this? Speaking of fears, this happens to be mine.

In my opinion, we constructed a deal that other cities will follow. We made sure the City of Tempe does not get left holding the bag. We saw Glendale's deal. This deal is different. Yes, we are giving them tools through tax abatements to help them remediate the land. It is a fact that these tools can and have been used in other cities, including this one before.

This isn't anything new. If this deal falls through, another city could use this same tool to lure this deal away. They chose Tempe because this is the right place in east valley over all their other options. We should be proud that we were able to attract a project of this magnitude that not only will bring revenues to our city, but a project that was willing to pay the extra costs of land remediation just to be here.

Simply put, they are agreeing to remediate the land with their own money. To the tune of \$72 million dollars.

At the end of the day, I'm giving you my opinion from everything I know about the project. And I have been in every single meeting. For the length constraints of this article, I can't possibly talk about all the details, so I hope you visit the Tempe website mentioned above.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my attempt to clear up any false rhetoric about the project. Whether you agree that this is good for the city or not, I know that we will continue to work together on keeping Tempe a great place.

— Joel Navarro
Joel Navarro is a member of the Tempe City Council

Study group reports on its findings

Key Findings

This economic impact analysis examines the Arizona Coyotes arena and music venue components of the proposed Tempe Entertainment District (TED). The arena and music venue represent the project's primary economic driver and the most critical for evaluating the subsidy arrangement agreed to with the City of Tempe.

The report also looks at other potential uses of the property and how those alternative uses compare on an overall gross (not new) revenue basis.

The Grand Canyon Institute's (GCI) key findings follow.

Arizona Coyotes arena/music venue economic impact

The arena events will squeeze the concert/show event market in the Phoenix Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as touring shows are relatively fixed but the area will have three large arenas instead of two.

The assumption of 45 events plus hockey games for the arena may be optimistic and the arena will negatively impact the Footprint Center owned by the city of Phoenix and/or Gila River Arena owned by the city of Glendale to the degree it hosts a large number of events.

For every \$2.70 diverted from the city to the community facilities district (CFD), the city only receives \$1 in new revenue as a consequence of new spending drawn by the arena and music venue and its recirculation within Tempe.

While the revenue gained does not match diverted taxes to the CFD, this shortfall will not create a general fund obligation.

Since the city effectively spends \$2.70 to make \$1, the shortfall will impact the growth of the general fund.

The study paid for by the city and the study the developer's consultant provided which show net gains for

the city rely on highly speculative, fairly arbitrary numbers to evaluate the entire project, rather than focusing on new spending drawn to Tempe as a consequence of events at the arena and music venue.

Both failed to subtract the cost of any Tempe business that was lost to the CFD.

Because the Coyotes have been in the Phoenix MSA for more than 30 years, and most entertainment spending is simply redistributed, the impact on the greater Phoenix MSA economy is negligible.

Evaluating alternative uses of the site

Measured on an overall gross tax revenue impact (not just new), tax revenue to the city from the project is not likely to exceed alternative uses of the site that do not require a CFD.

Added cash and noncash benefits of significance equal a net present value (NPV) of \$6 million—other benefits are generally self-serving for the project or significantly overvalued such as "naming rights."

Overall revenue is speculative. Full build out is unlikely, e.g. one hotel instead of two.

Overall revenue estimates do not include commerce transferred to the area away from other Tempe businesses, the substitution effect. Estimates of the substitution effect vary widely and are not reliable. So comparisons should be taken with some caution.

The Grand Canyon Institute (GCI) is dedicated to informing and improving public policy in Arizona through evidence-based, independent, objective, nonpartisan research. GCI makes a good faith effort to ensure that findings are reliable, accurate, and based on reputable sources. While publications reflect the view of the Institute, they may not reflect the view of individual members of the Board.

— Dave Wells

Dave Wells holds a doctorate in political economy and public policy and is the Research Director for the Grand Canyon Institute.

Glendale vice mayor advises Tempe to oppose plan

This Special Election offers you, the Tempe voter, the opportunity to tell City Council they can do better in selecting a developer for its last remaining large parcel of land.

Despite holding elected office in Glendale, I am sharing my personal advice: Please do not repeat Glendale's troubled history with the Coyotes. VOTE NO on Propositions 301, 302 and 303.

What can be learned about Meruelo and the team? Dun & Bradstreet considers all Meruelo associated entities as a moderate to high risk. The lowest amount of borrowing capacity resides with the Ice Hockey Arizona (the Coyotes) in an amount of \$5,000; the highest amount of borrowing capacity is with Meruelo Enterprises at an amount of \$1.4 million. That's a far cry from the \$2.1 billion plus needed to develop this project.

The development agreement does not offer enough financial protection to taxpayers should the developer default.

The team seems to be bleeding money while it promises to pay Tempe for a lot of things to pursue their development becoming reality including

footing up to a \$250,000 bill to cover the cost of the May Special Election. They seem to be desperate and realize this is their last opportunity to remain a viable entity in Arizona.

Keep in mind that just last year the team owed \$1.3 million in taxes to the State of Arizona including \$250,000 to Glendale. That's in addition to the previous year when the team owed Glendale at least \$500,000 in back rental payments.

The team has promised that nothing like this will ever happen again...until the next time it does.

Another issue is the Coyotes' history of charitable giving and civic involvement. In Glendale, it was crickets. There was no involvement. Have you noted the rash of the Coyotes' very recent involvement in the Tempe community? I suspect it's all for show. I assume they want you, the voter, to expect this same level of civic involvement once the deal is done. I suspect you shouldn't hold your breath. Their current civic engagement is for selling purposes. Once Tempe has bought this deal, it will no longer be an imperative for them. History often repeats itself.

Tempe's proposal requires the City to create a Community Facilities District that can issue up to \$247 million in bonds and allows not only newly implemented sales tax categories to pay off bonds but "certain other sources" of the City as well. What

are these "other sources?"

The other major financial gift to Meruelo is the use of a GPLET (Government Property Lease Excise Tax). The GPLET issued by the city provides the Coyotes with property tax abatements for 30 years – 80 percent of that or approximately \$400 million – is money that will never go to Tempe schools or community colleges.

Make no mistake. This IS a publicly-financed sports venue that will be paid by hardworking Tempe taxpayers. It's time to tell billionaire sports team owners that citizens will no longer pay for their private developments. It's time for them to pay their own way.

There is an adage, "A leopard cannot change its spots." I suspect Meruelo can't change his spots either. His organization's propensity to stall on payments, to claim to forget or to claim human error, is not suddenly going to go away. Many observers of this new Coyotes saga believe he's just looking for a new arena for his unethical practices and culture of dishonesty.

Are Tempe voters and its City Council who have not bothered to learn from history, especially that of Glendale, doomed to repeat it?

Joyce Clark

Joyce Clark is Glendale's vice mayor

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✓ Harry Mitchell

✓ Mark Mitchell

✓ Hugh Hallman

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 - \$33 Million for Tempe Public Safety
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Opposing sides mobilize to share their perspectives

Article & photos
by Andrew Lwowski

With ballots for Propositions 301, 302 and 303—measures that would allow for the required removal, restoration and development of a new Arizona Coyotes entertainment district—now in the mail, tensions from those who support and oppose the project are at a boiling point.

While Tempe Wins and Tempe 1st had their respective meetings April 13 to reassert their stance on the proposed project, both spent extensive time addressing one point; Sky Harbor.

A few dozen protestors with signs and chants swarmed the entrance of Tempe Chamber of Commerce, where the pro-development Tempe Wins group gathered to hear supporters voice their stance.

Coyotes President and CEO Xavier Gutierrez kicked off the meeting by reiterating his pledge that Tempe residents are at no risk for the development; that it only benefits the community. Gutierrez then welcomed NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and former Tempe Mayor Hugh Hallman.

Bettman stated that the Coyotes, should the propositions pass, will be a permanent addition to Tempe.

Hallman made it abundantly clear that all building plans and zoning for the project are within legal limits for Sky Harbor and flight paths, which has become the leading issue Tempe 1st has to oppose the project.

Hallman said he and lawyers representing both sides sat down and made sure all present understood and agreed to the 200-plus-page document addressing the topic.

However, Tempe 1st had invited the current chairman of the Tempe Aviation Commission, W. David Doiron to speak. Doiron, with experience as

a commercial airline pilot, air traffic controller and Air Force veteran, said that while everything may be perfectly legal, that does not make it the right move.

Doiron said "risk" is the key word when accessing this topic. Should the project be carried out with the construction of the area and residential living space, the potential risk of death remains in case of an unexpected incident should occur during takeoff or landing. He clarified that casualty is inevitable with accidents, but limiting the population in high-risk areas can lower that number should one happen.

Hallman responded, claiming that downtown Phoenix has a high population, high buildings and Chase Field, home of the Arizona Diamondbacks, which poses the same risk and concern as that alleged for Tempe.

While both sides continue to battle, the continuation of ballot-mailing was due to continue in time for a special election set for May 16.



PHOTO IDs —
PAGE 12, bottom
left, Coyotes
President and CEO
Xavier Gutierrez
(left) with NHL
Commissioner
Gary Bettman
for Tempe Wins.
Bottom right,
Tempe 1st leader
Dawn Penich-
Thacker PhD
speaking for the
opposition.



PAGE 13
Top, former
Coyotes captain
and current
chief Hockey
Development
Officer Shane
Doan with pro
group Tempe Wins.

Bottom, Penich-
Thacker with David
Doiron, current
chairman of the
Tempe Aviation
Commission,
at lecturn,
with others
representing
opposition group
Tempe 1st.



Arizona Theatre Company announces inaugural Tempe season

Arizona Theatre Company's 2023-24 56th Season kicks off in October at Tempe Center for the Arts.

Enjoy five mainstage shows – including a big holiday musical spectacular perfect for all ages – with nearly 100 performances at TCA.

Each title in this grand slam lineup is either a Tony Award winner or nominee, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, or has been adapted into a blockbuster

film. You can see “Barefoot in the Park,” “Scrooge: The Musical,” “Intimate Apparel,” “Master Class” and “True West.”

For the best seats, Season Ticket and Flex Pass Advantage subscriptions are available now at atc.org/subscribe. Single tickets go on sale in mid-August.

Learn more about Arizona Theatre Company and the upcoming season at atc.org.

making space:

AN EQUITY STUDY FOR PARKS AND RECREATION

Share your story for Parks and Recreation

As part of Making Space: An Equity Study for Tempe Parks and Recreation, a community survey is now open to collect feedback on how equity is experienced in parks and recreation programs.

Share your story to help celebrate diversity, explore new opportunities and break down barriers in parks and recreation spaces and places.

The survey is open through May 22.

The survey results, along with additional community outreach, will help identify and prioritize gaps to ensure that future investment occurs in areas where more resources are needed.

Learn more about the study and upcoming events and meetings at tempe.gov/MakingSpace.

New partnership brings golf improvements

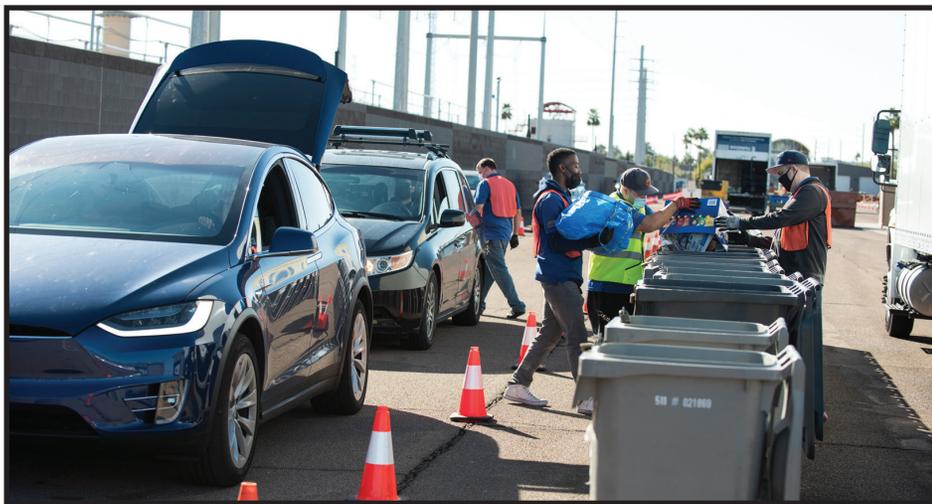
Improvements, including renovations to the clubhouse and the addition of night golf, will soon be coming to Rolling Hills Golf Course thanks to a Council-approved public-private partnership with Grass Clippings.

Starting July 1, Grass Clippings will be responsible for the operations, maintenance and capital improvements of the golf course, pro shop and clubhouse. The agreement outlines \$13 million in planned

improvements, including lighting, a family activity lawn and large video display, hilltop and patio bars, clubhouse, pro shop and more.

The existing course footprint and layout will remain, with minor modifications on hole nine for the family activity lawn. A public-private partnership agreement for Ken McDonald Golf Course is currently in negotiation.

Learn more at tempe.gov/GolfPartnership.



Zero Waste Day is April 29

Residents are encouraged to bring unwanted items for reuse, recycling or repurposing to Tempe's next Zero Waste Day from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at the Tempe Fire Training Center, 1340 E. University Drive.

Accepted items include paper for secure shredding, building materials,

tires, clothing, household items, scrap metal, bikes and household hazardous waste.

Food and pet supplies donations will also be collected. Participants must live in Tempe or Guadalupe and provide proof of residency. For the full list of items accepted, visit tempe.gov/ZeroWaste.

For both autism and diversity, it's a special month

By OD Harris

April is a special month because it brings to light two causes that are very important to me – autism awareness and diversity.

Since I've joined the Chandler City Council, we've made several important advancements in the area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

We passed a non-discrimination ordinance to protect the underserved.

We made Juneteenth an official City holiday. We started citywide celebrations to commemorate Juneteenth and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

That's why Celebrate Diversity Month feels a little more special this year.

Diversity Month began in 2004 to honor the diversity in our communities and to promote what's being done to connect us to each other.

I hope you'll lean into that the rest of this month – and every month – by exploring new cultural experiences throughout Chandler. We've got so much to offer, from artist showcases to music to dance performances at Chandler Center for the Arts.

This celebration is also an opportunity to advance the conversation of diversity in the workforce, where it's crucial to have representation from ALL voices. I hope you'll take some time to support minority



and women-owned businesses in Chandler, and to encourage other business leaders to increase their efforts to be more inclusive.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 36 children in the United States will be diagnosed with autism. Of those, 25-30% are either non-verbal or can speak up to 30 words. The traits of the remaining 70% can be a little more difficult to recognize when we encounter those who have the disability.

That's one of the many reasons awareness is so important. Most people with autism can live normal, fulfilling lives. The more we can do to support those efforts and to make them feel welcome in our buildings, parks, workplaces and public spaces, the better our community will become.

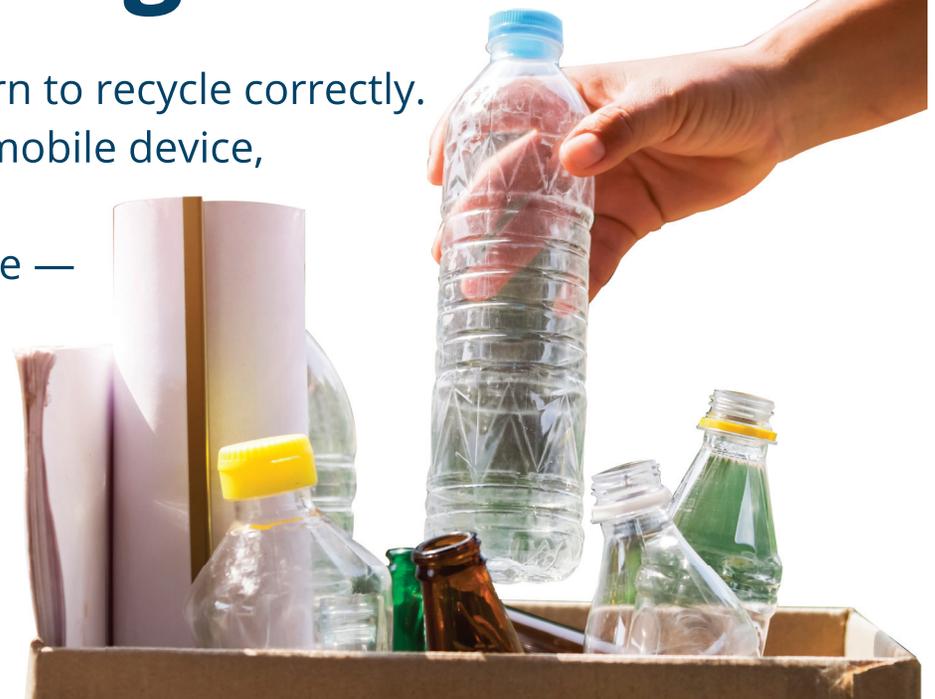
Research is also a critical component of autism awareness. So much work is still needed to uncover more about this disability and to discover new and better treatment options.

As we approach the end of April, let's keep the momentum going to keep these two important causes top of mind all year long.

OD Harris is a member of the Chandler City Council.

Take the guesswork out of it — use Recycle Coach to get the answer

We've been taught to recycle. Now it's time to learn to recycle correctly. Download the free **Recycle Coach app** on your mobile device, or find the Recycle Coach online at chandleraz.gov/recycle, to see what goes where — recycling, trash or other disposal options.





Your Business Advantage

We serve as the voice of business, a catalyst for economic growth, and a champion for a strong community.



Join business leaders and community stakeholders at the 2023 Business Excellence Awards, presented by Southwest Airlines. Highlights of the event will include a State of the Chamber address from Tempe Chamber President & CEO Colin Diaz, ACE, IOM and the presentation of the 2023 Business Excellence Awards.

The awards recognize responsible business leadership and honor those that demonstrate a passion for excellence. Through the awards, the Tempe Chamber identifies companies whose practices in business growth, employee development, community involvement and customer service exemplify excellence.



Nominate your favorite business for the Business Excellence Awards!

*A business must be located in Tempe or be a member of the Tempe Chamber of Commerce

Friday, May 19, 2023

10:30am-1:30pm

Doubletree by Hilton

Phoenix Tempe

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Member Admission - \$50

General Public Table - \$650

Member Table - \$500

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please contact Bernadette_Coggins@tempe.gov

Tempe Coalition is a grant-funded project of  TEMPE Community a 501(C)3 nonprofit

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SPORTS

Padres softball pushes past midpoint in 4A ratings

Sports Notebook by Alex Zener

The Marcos de Niza softball team, with a 10-4 overall and 3-3 section record, is ranked No. 20 out of 47 teams in the 4A conference.

The Padres have one young player who has come out to play this season, freshman Leila Rodriguez.

As a batter, Rodriguez leads the team in batting averages at 0.533, in on-base percentage at 0.751, in stolen bases with five, in runs scored with 20, in hits with 24, in slugging percentage at 0.888, and in both doubles, with four, and triples with six.

As one of only two pitchers on the team, Rodriguez has started in 10 games where she has won eight, pitching in 65 innings striking out 63 batters while allowing only 73 hits resulting in 44 runs or a 3.66 earned run average.

Marcos's other pitcher, senior Myreah Uriarte, is two for two in games started and won pitching in 14 innings with an earned run average of 3.00. When batting, Uriarte has scored nine runs with six RBI's.

Junior Daisy Reyes, who plays first base, is the second leading batter on the team with an earned run average of .375 playing in 10 games with an on-base percentage of .444.

Senior outfielder Pyper Hatch is third on the team with an earned run average of .364 playing in 10 games with 10 RBI's while scoring six runs.

Senior Isabella Trujillo, who plays third base, has a .353 batting average, leads the team in RBI's with 15 on 12 hits in addition to scoring 12 runs.

Senior Carina Matuz has played in every game this season as an outfielder. She has been at bat 17 times where she scored five runs while fellow senior Rachell Russell plays first base. When at bat, Russell has a .444 on-base percentage.

Junior Sophia Jimenez has played in every game this season at third base. At bat, she has six RBI's on six hits with three runs scored.

Junior outfielder Cassandra Medina has scored 11 runs while at bat only 23 times.

The Padres have a somewhat young team with three sophomore and three freshman playing on the varsity team.

For instance, sophomore catcher Sophia Franco

has played in every game this season. When at bat, she has a respectable batting average of .265 with an on base percentage of .359 scoring eight runs with nine RBI's on nine hits.

Playing utility, sophomore Charlotte Brandt has scored four runs with an on-base percentage of .400 while sophomore third baseman Ariana Del Rio has scored two runs with an on-base percentage of .500.

In addition to Rodriguez, the two other freshmen on the team are Altagracia Wix and Dakota Dunn.

Wix, who plays both catcher and utility, has played in every game. At the plate she has a batting average of .290 scoring five runs on nine hits with five RBI's.

Playing in every game as second baseman, Dunn has a batting average of .257 scoring 13 runs and 10 RBI's.

Marcos had five games left on their schedule to improve their standing before the state championship playoffs including an away game at Saguaro on April 14.

The Padres were scheduled to play at home against Saguaro on April 17, at home against Coronado on April 19 and at Mesquite on April 20.

Their last home game is against Mesquite on April 24 when the six senior players, Hatch, Matuz, Trujillo, Jazmin Treto, Uriarte and Russell will be honored.

If the Padres can stay in the top 24 teams in 4A they will have a chance to make it to the playoffs if they win in the 4A Conference Play-In on April 26.

If they win that game, they will play in the 2023 AIA Softball 4A State Championship starting on April 29.

Corona Softball

Corona's softball team, with a 9-13 overall record, is currently ranked No. 19 in the 6A Conference with a good chance of at least making it into the 6A Conference Play-In on April 26.

Teams ranked No. 9 through 24 play this one conference play-in game for a chance to be among the 16 teams to play in the 2023 AIA Softball 6A State Championship starting April 29.

The Aztecs have four more games left in the

regular season to improve their rankings including their second game in a row against Desert Vista on April 18.

Corona then has a non-section game at home against Hamilton on April 19 before their last two games against Highland on April 21 and April 24.

The seniors, Madison Romero, Jaclyn Ibarra, Larysa Pagel, Isabelle Freund, Jacqueline Tom, Gina Jackson and Elizabeth Cowgur, will be honored at the last home game on April 21.

Corona Athletes Sign Letter of Intent

Corona had 14 athletes sign letters of intent on April 12 to continue their academic and athletic careers at the next level. Corona's football program had seven athletes sign letters of intent.

Two of these athletes, Carston Keiffer and Keona Peat, will continue to have a local fan base after choosing to play football at Arizona State University.

Matthew Orthmann will also be staying in the state while playing football at Northern State University as will Trey Fanene who is playing at Arizona Christian University.

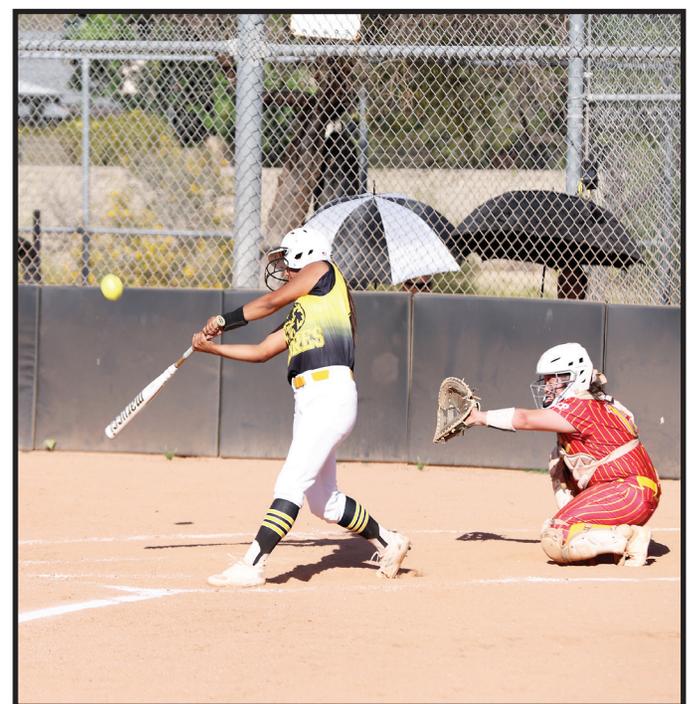
Three Corona football players signed at schools out of state including Jake Carbajal who is headed to South Dakota to play at Northern State University, Jonathan Kubat who will be off to Southwest Minnesota State and Bennett Matsler who is going to North Greenville University in South Carolina where he will play both football and lacrosse.

Corona's swim team had three swimmers sign letters of intent. Colin Campbell will be swimming in state at Grand Canyon University while Reed Lucero will be at University of Cincinnati and Daytona Duggan at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Corona golfer Nick Marrow signed with Regis University in Denver while Aztec girls soccer player Ali Estrada signed at Fresno Pacific University.

Tyler Tisinger is going to Cornell University to run track and cross country.

Corona girls volleyball player Brianna Mitchell signed with Haskell Indian Nations University which is a premiere tribal university in the United States, offering quality education to Native American students. It is located in Lawrence, KS.



HIGH OCTANE OFFENSE AND ENERGY HELPED THE PADRES IN THEIR EXTRA-INNINGS VICTORY OVER THE SENTINALS

— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski



Heroics fail to emerge for Corona as batting prowess falls short

Wangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski

The Aztecs' late-game heroics came up short in their second match against Queen Creek, falling 9-7 in 9 innings.

The Bulldogs put up four runs in the first inning while the Aztec bats struggled to get going.

It wasn't until the third inning when Corona found offensive rhythm and answered back with runs of two, one and three in the following

respective innings.

However, Queen Creek responded with a two-run homer in the sixth to retake the lead late in the game.

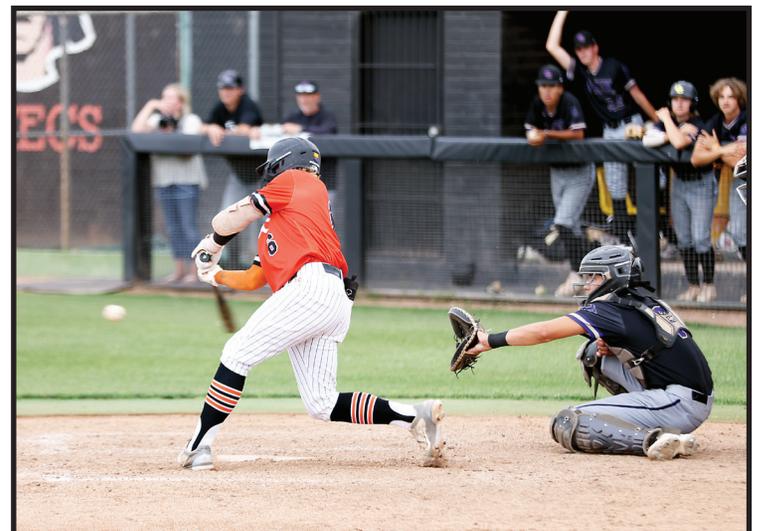
Corona came into the bottom of the seventh inning trailing by one with two outs, two strikes on the board in need of magic. Then, an RBI allowed Cole Carlon to score and notch the game at 7.

As quickly as the magic it came, it disappeared

and Corona fell short, but managed to split the series. Currently at 14-9 overall, 6-1 and in first place in the 6A Central section, the Aztecs have the no.7 seed.

The Aztecs were looking to finish the sweep of No.5 Desert Vista on April 18 after defeating the Thunder 5-4 on April 13 in Ahwatukee.

Next, they will close out the regular season with a series against Highland.







— Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

Full Swing . . . by Andrew Lwowski

To the history books for Jon Rahm

Former Arizona State graduate Jon Rahm got the coveted green jacket after securing his victory at the 87th Masters, rewriting history books in the process. Rahm surged past LIVs' Brooks Koepka to capture his first Masters win at only 28 years old.

Rahm also reclaimed his official World Rank No.1 spot in the process. In fact, this will be the first time that the former champion, Scottie Scheffler, slips the jacket onto the man who is replacing him.

It was an absolutely incredible feat by the Spaniard after four-putting on the opening hole of the tournament, then trailing by four shots entering the next day. Only two other players have

accomplished that, one being fellow Spaniard Seve Ballesteros in 1983.

His win marks his sixth in his last 12 starts on the PGA TOUR and DP World Tour. It is also his 11th TOUR title and second major, the other being the 2021 U.S. Open champion.

Rahm is the only European player to win both the U.S. Open and Masters.

Already during the 2022-23 season, Rahm has four wins, setting a new record for himself.

However, Rahm's success on the PGA TOUR is to noone's surprise. During his freshman year in Tempe, he led the nation in birdies (165) while defeating the then-NCAA Champion and current PGA pro Max Homa by three strokes.

The nation took notice when Rahm, still a junior at ASU, tied for fifth at the Waste Management

Phoenix Open, notching himself as the first amateur to place top-five since Chris Wood in 2008.

His senior year was no different, with him winning the Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year Award while also capping his collegiate career ranked no.1 by the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

"It wasn't too long ago that Jon was just like the guys on this team," said ASU mens golf coach Matt Thurmond.

"Being able to see him and look up to him and think of what's possible for themselves is a really special thing.

"Jon comes around and the guys all know him; he's a big part of our program and seeing what he's doing is inspiring for all of us."

From college to the pros, Rahm's accolades and talent have come full swing.



Eighth-graders, from left, Noah Adams, Mason Monahan, and Maxiel Joslin.

Eighth-graders open a door to lifelong empathy by working toward rescue of feral cat population

Studies aimed at expanding hearts, minds through acts of service

By Gabrielle Dunton

McKemy Academy of International Studies was buzzing with energy during the school's annual Community Project Showcase, the culminating capstone project for eighth-graders as part of their involvement in the so-called International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.

To receive their IB certificate at the end of the school year, eighth-graders must explore their hearts and their minds through a final act of service of giving back to their community.

Showcased in nearly 50 booths, these projects ranged from topics that tackled larger issues such as anxiety awareness, mental health and homelessness, to addressing local issues such as providing tutoring opportunities for students and cleaning up Hollis Park, a neighborhood park in north Tempe.

In groups of two to three, eighth-grade students donned suits and ties or other professional attire to present to their community about their projects. Each group used a tri-fold poster which included the important IB framework areas of identifying and researching a need in their community and implementing their plan of action to both communicate and address that need. The project also included an honest reflection of their work and lessons learned.

Eighth-grade students Joaquin Gutierrez and Kaysen Davis worked on a project to trap, release and neuter the feral cats that have increased in Davis' neighborhood. Their project, "Save the

Cats," required them to bait and set traps around the neighborhood and partner with a local neighbor to transport the caged animals to a local veterinarian clinic where they could be neutered.

"It was cool to find out that clinics will neuter cats completely for free," said Davis. "We ended up catching 10 cats and we were able to help all of them get neutered."

While participating in the project, David and Gutierrez realized that some of the cats required additional medical attention. To help meet that need, the students set up a GoFundMe page to raise money to help finance the needed services. They ended up raising \$350 to go toward medical fees.

"This project made me feel really good because it feels good to help animals, and help others in the neighborhood," said Gutierrez. "I definitely feel that we built awareness on this issue, too."

Kathryn Gannon, IB Coordinator at McKemy Academy, led the charge for the eighth-grade capstone project. It was really important to Gannon, she said, to guide students in choosing a project that they were passionate about, so that the learning outcome could be meaningful in their life and educational trajectory.

"I am seeing leadership qualities in each and every one of my students," said Gannon. "I see qualities that you would not normally see in an eighth-grader, notably their level of leadership, being proud of what they have done, and talking to adults and being able to advocate for themselves."

"It is tear-jerking," she added. "I think that's what I see in them. That they can be a leader in anything that they come across in their life."

As the evening wound down and parents and community members started making their way home, eighth-graders began moving around to their fellow classmates' project presentations to learn from one another, discussing ideas, lessons learned, and how they could carry on what they had started to other areas in their life.

Some mentioned going into social work, others wanted to become advocates for the younger students in their community.

"We launch leaders. It's part of our mission statement," explained Gannon. "McKemy intends to create a global-minded citizens that care and have empathy for other people and for their communities."

Gabrielle Dunton is Assistant Director of Strategic Partnerships & Communication for the Tempe Elementary School District

36th Annual Chandler Chamber Community 2023 Awards

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DIVERSIONS

Film Fare . . . by M.V. Moorhead

Changes bring new look to depressive dad's behavior

After making the circuit of the 2022 Phoenix Film Festival, as well as Tucson's Arizona International Film Festival and many other showings around the country, writer-director Tom Huang's comedy-drama *Dealing with Dad* has landed a theatrical run at Harkins Theatres, right here in West Chandler.

The movie, which deals with a family's response to chronic depression, is very much worth checking out.

Three grown children in a Taiwanese-American family reunite at their childhood home in Milpitas, Calif., when their father shows signs of the debilitating psychological affliction. He lies in bed all day watching TV and won't engage with anybody, except to absently offer his kids money when they come in to ask how he's feeling.

The trouble is that this makes him a far more agreeable person than he was before he got sick. Dad (Dana Lee) was an angry, distant, unloving man whose ferocious criticism of his children amounted to verbal abuse.

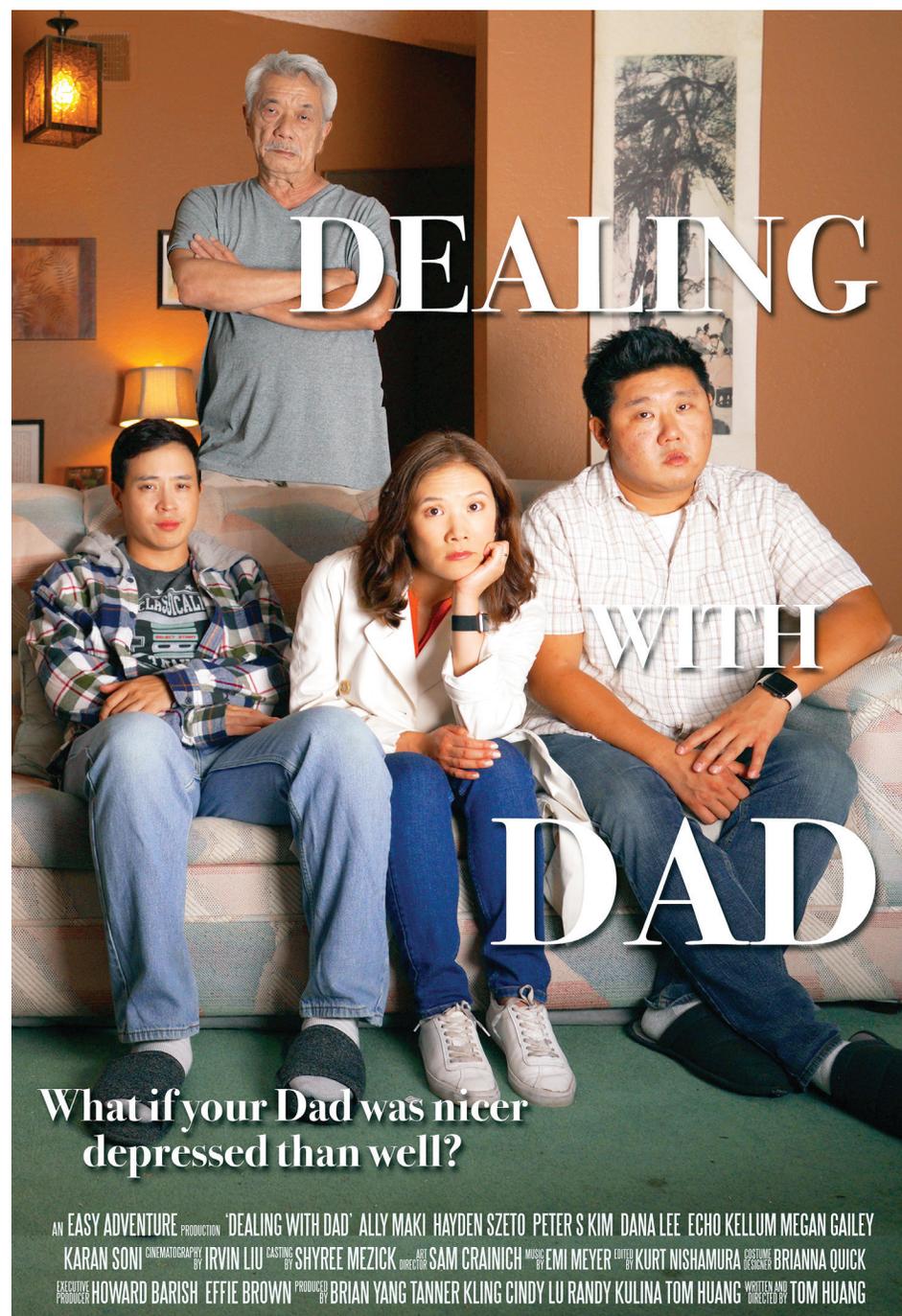
His hyper-organized daughter Margaret (Ally Maki), now married and with a biracial son, self-describes as a "neurotic OCD hypochondriac"; she's haunted by dreams of being overcome by a deluge. His banker son Roy (Peter S. Kim) is overweight from stress eating over his impending divorce.

His other son Larry (Hayden Szeto) is a comic book nerd and toy collector who still lives at home in his early thirties, and whose only income is the little he can make from selling off his action figures.

Their unfiltered, unflappable Mom (Page Leong) shows no special concern at Dad's condition, and Larry certainly finds it easier to share a house with him this way. But Margaret takes charge as best she can, trying to get him diagnosed and medicated. Dad doesn't take her efforts lying down, however—or, rather, he refuses to take them any other way.

Despite some sitcom-like schtick, Huang's briskly-directed feature is a small triumph, a sweet but firmly unsentimental, believable family comedy that's no less genuinely funny for its edge of poignancy. Huang focuses on ensemble acting with impressive results; every member of the cast is top-notch but the core, the siblings, reflexively teasing and bickering with a palpable undercurrent of love and support for each other, come across like people it would be fun to hang out with.

Dealing with Dad plays through April 27 at Harkins Fashion 20; also at Harkins Arrowhead 18. It's slated to open at Harkins Shea 14 on April 28 and at the Mary D. Fisher Theater in Sedona on May 12.



Arts center top exec sees bright future for theatre as kids get involved

By M.V. Moorhead



Eileen May knows the importance of theatre for young people. The Managing Director of Tempe Center for the Arts insists that theatre for the young is essential to the health of theatre, period.

Thus she's enthusiastic about the 2023 Theatre for Young Audiences National Festival and

Conference, co-hosted by TCA and Childsplay from May 10 to May 12 at the Childsplay Campus at TCA (and at Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix).

"This is a national organization that represents theatre for young audiences," says May. "They represent over 1,000 theaters, organizations and individuals across 47 states."

Probably the largest of these members here in Arizona is Childsplay, with whom TCA is partnering as host on this event, the TYA's first in-person conference since 2019. The organization wasn't idle

Family Fun at Tempe Center for the Arts

Cenicienta:
A Bilingual
Cinderella Story
May 13 | 10 am



Leonardo!
A Wonderful Show About
a Terrible Monster
May 13 | 2 pm



Draw-A-Thon
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TICKETS
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Tempe Center for the Arts





Kerry and Sam gaze skyward under protective cover of a cloud. From left: Leah Casey, Julia Miller and Lindsey Whiting.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Center for the Arts.

during the COVID shutdown, however.

“They really led the charge about how to make performance accessible during the pandemic,” notes May.

Two of the weekend’s various performances will be held at TCA. One is a piece called *Leonardo!* by a Chicago-based company called Manual Cinema.

“It’s about a terrible monster,” says May. She isn’t kidding; the subtitle is *A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster*.

“They created a puppetry show from a children’s book. It’s human performers with puppets together.” The adaptation of the book by Mo Willems, mixing not only live actors with puppets but also live action with video, plays at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 13; tickets range from \$10 to \$18.

Earlier that same day, Saturday May 13 at 10

a.m., is *Cenicienta*. This show, too has a subtitle: *A Bilingual Cinderella Story*. Presented by Glass Half Full Theatre of Austin, Texas, this contemporary take on the classic fairy tale is retold from the point of view of Belinda, a kid ignominiously banished to the basement while her stepmother and stepsisters prepare for a party upstairs. Belinda uses random stuff she finds stored there to bring the story to life. Again, tickets for the show, recommended for kids age kindergarten and up, range from \$10 to \$18.

These full productions are only one part of what’s going on at the TYA Conference, however. Along with a “Song Slam” cabaret, a wide variety of immersive workshops and training programs, both for theatre students and professionals, are on the schedule, as well as “Breakout Sessions” with TYA leaders from around the country; titles of these

include “Insights to Advancing Access: Disability Justice in TYA,” “TYA Advocacy in the Time of Book Banning,” “Power Sharing: Colaboración and Creating Comunidad in the Devising Process” and “If You Build It: Creating New Platforms for a New Canon in TYA.”

“I Have a Story,” a discussion moderated by Childsplay Associate Artistic Director Jenny Millinger is also on the schedule.

So is the keynote speech, by poet Mahogany L. Browne, whose young adult novel *Chlorine Sky* was recently adapted for the stage at Steppenwolf Theatre for Young Adults in Chicago.

For details go to tempecenterforthearts.com or call 480-350-2822.

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We Hear You!

OLLI is coming to Chandler

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) has partnered with the ASU Chandler Innovation Center (ACIC) to bring an incredible class to the City of Chandler and East Valley communities.

Friday, April 21 | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Kevin Sandler

Class: A look back at Tootsie

Kevin Sandler is an associate professor in the Film and Media Studies Program. He specializes in the contemporary media business, with a particular focus on censorship and animation.

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