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Condoleezza Rice addressed U.S. winners, including Wrangler News staffer Andrew Lwowski, of coveted Hearst award.

Former top U.S. aide shares her thoughts on how AI holds key to future

Editor's note: Wrangler News contributor Andrew Lwowski, a Corona del Sol and ASU graduate, was among recipients of the prestigious Hearst writing awards presented in San Francisco June 3-8. The following is based on a virtual appearance by former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, one of a group of nationally recognized leaders who addressed the group.

By Andrew Lwowski

As the world swings into year two of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, a new generation of warfare is unfolding in the process. The rise of technology has led to the first evidence of this, and artificial intelligence at the

same time has ushered in a new dynamic in how events are covered by the world's media.

During a virtual press conference, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned that, despite its benefits, America faces the looming threat of artificial intelligence.

"This is a very complex set of issues because we want to have the benefit of what AI can bring," Rice said. "We want the innovation to be distributed. We have to remember that we are not in the race alone; there is an authoritarian regime in China in this race as well."

The advancements of technology within the past decade have ushered in a wave of alarming war tactics, Rice said, adding that increasingly powerful AI tools pose not only a threat to national security, but democracy.

"A friend of mine actually had a deep fake," Rice said. "He does a lot of consulting for the Ukrainian government and the deep fake was trying to get information out of the Ukrainian government about their military movements."

While AI remains a double-edged sword, Rice expressed the utmost importance of the United States winning this new-wave arms race in powerful technology.

However, it starts with scientists deciphering which regulations can prevent these issues from the start, further defining the line between human and computer.

Just because it is legal, Rice said, doesn't mean it is right.

The rise of technology, specifically communications, has led to the first "social media war," as Rice says. Ukrainians have been pioneering their way through the technological strongholds President Putin and the Russian forces that implemented though "clever" social media navigation and the private sector.

Elon Musk's Starlink has aided in the Ukrainians breaking through information blockades and communication jamming as well as broadcast what they are dealing with on a daily basis first hand.

Additionally, the access to technologies previously only available to the government have been crucial to the way new conflicts can be followed.

While Rice wishes the United States would continue to aid the Ukrainian fighters with tools necessary to succeed, she said it is vital that the American government stay focused on controlling advancing technology while preserving democracy.

Fireworks again light up Tempe July 4th celebrations

Independence Day fireworks promise to brighten the sky around Tempe and West Chandler again this year, with Kiwanis Club of Tempe and the city of Tempe co-sponsoring the local observance.

Date for this year's event will be Tuesday, July 4, with games and activities for all ages, live music, food and a fireworks show at Tempe Diablo Stadium.

The family fun kicks off at 5 p.m. and goes until 10.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission adult; \$100 for VIP adult, and must be purchased online in advance.

VIP tickets include a spectacular view of the fireworks from a shaded seating area, catered dinner, dessert bar, non-alcoholic drinks, a special goody bag and VIP exclusive parking.

Kids VIP tickets are \$50.

General admission tickets include entry into the event. Children under 10

are admitted free, with tickets available online with the purchase of regular admission.

On-site parking will be available for \$10.

The fun kicks off with live music from NineBall and continues with a performance from country music up-and-comer Presley Tennant.

A family fun zone will offer a free inflatable village for all ages with a variety of rides, rock-climbing walls and more.

A food court will feature hamburgers, hot dogs, BBQ, roasted corn, fry bread, snow cones, ice cream, lemonade and lots of cold bottled water and Pepsi products, along with a variety of offerings from other food vendors.

Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m.

The event is presented by Kiwanis Club of Tempe in partnership with the City of Tempe.

Get tickets

As the day of celebration gets closer, safety officials emphasize the importance of remembering to celebrate safely, no matter where you are.

Find out which fireworks are legal, how to barbecue safely, get tips on water safety and more at tempe.gov/SummerofSafety.

Tempe Diablo Stadium is at 2200 W. Alameda Drive.



Lighting up the sky over Mill Avenue Bridge — Wrangler News file photo



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County's \$50k helps Tempe enable emergency cooling

For Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, a seemingly modest \$50,000 contribution from the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors stands out as one of lifesaving proportions.

Woods was responding to an announcement from Supervisors Chairman Clint Hickman, noting that the funding will support a new indoor cooling center designed to provide a defense for families vulnerable to heat-related illness as well as those experiencing homelessness. While most concerns regarding excessive heat affect those more distant from South Tempe neighborhoods, Woods praised the new availability of such facilities via cooperation among city of Tempe and community nonprofits.

"We are grateful for Maricopa County's continued partnership and leadership," said Woods. "With the opening of this new center, those in need will have access to nine different options for heat relief and connections to resources."

It is estimated that the center will serve approximately 1,120 individuals through its 118 days of operation, due to run through Sept. 30.

This represents the second partnership in recent weeks between Maricopa County and

Tempe on homelessness. On May 15, a \$10 million collaboration was announced that will expand shelter options through the purchase of a motel to house approximately 120 people experiencing homelessness.

The supervisors' approval of \$50,000 in funding for the operation of the new facility is part of the county's American Rescue Plan Act allocation that is being used to help support the most vulnerable people in Maricopa County. "We fully recognize the grave and potentially life-threatening repercussions of the relentless summer heat," said Hickman. Through this agreement, Tempe will operate the facility, known as EnVision Center, at 1310 E. Apache Blvd. The center's cooling availability began operations on June 5 and is available every day of the week from noon to 8 p.m.

The center welcomes anyone who needs a place to cool down and hydrate, including individuals and families vulnerable to heat-related illness and those experiencing homelessness. Those utilizing the center's services will have access to air conditioning, restrooms and drinking water. Staff will connect anyone coming to the center with wraparound services, including housing assessments, case management, and workforce opportunities to address the comprehensive needs of the individuals served, aimed at promoting long-term stability and access to vital resources.



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Tribute to a Father's Day, and a father, long overdue



James N. Kirkland, circa 1930 — Family photo

The following column by Wrangler News founder Don Kirkland first appeared in our June 16-29, 2012 edition, and has been mentioned by readers for possible reprint in successive Fathers Day editions. Based on those requests, it appears again herein in its original format. We hope it brings the same enjoyment to you as it has to others.

As Father's Day has approached in years past, we've featured dads whose lives have proved inspirational to their sons and daughters—men with special achievements, special contributions, special memories shared by those who know or knew them.

All of which caused me to wonder why, in our 30 or so years of honoring our dads on these pages, I'd never considered writing about my own.

The most likely reason, I suppose, is that he didn't fit the mold we've typically used.

His achievements, considerable though they were in his early days, became diminished after I was born, a result of his long and, I'm sure, painful battle with rheumatoid arthritis that came upon him at a relatively young age.

The special memories, another of our unofficial criteria to qualify for Father of the Year in the small universe of this little hometown newspaper, were limited as a result of his illness, which no doubt stood in the way of him being a dad in the traditional sense: not many ball games, not much father-son camaraderie—simply said, not much to remember.

All of which these many years later seems to have given me the motivation to know more of the man about whom I know so little.

Tracing the history of this son of a small-town railroad worker and his stay-at-home bride—together they fathered nine children—is complicated by the many years that have passed. My dad, the next-to-youngest, was born in the late 1800s. Because a large number of census records from 1890 were lost in a fire 21 years later at the Commerce Building in Washington, D.C., at least a decade of relevant data is missing.

That leaves the stories told by my mother, herself now gone for 20 years; a few fragmented bits of information culled from online genealogical searches; and, of course, my own limited memory.

James N. Kirkland seemed destined to follow in the footsteps of the other members of his family: the railroad was the economic engine of this little Missouri town not far from St. Joseph. Somehow, though, the early days of his career took him to The Associated Press, where he worked for a number of years as a telegrapher and sometimes news writer.

Although no one in the family has ever talked in detail about this connection to AP, the letters he sent in later years seemed consistent with the skills

a writer would possess. Those letters became, in fact, the only significant link I would ever have to this man about whom I ultimately would know so little.

As my father's condition worsened in the late 1930s, as the economy struggled to regain traction and as political turmoil leading to World War II grew even more worrisome, my parents—I was four years old—decided to move my mother, our housekeeper Mrs. Britt and me from Missouri to California, where the economy was much healthier.

The plan, as I've heard it described, was to get us settled in L.A., wait for my dad's condition to improve and ultimately be reunited. My mother did find a place for us to live—in those days, as unimaginable as I've always found this—no one would rent to a family with children. We ended up in a one-bedroom hotel room just west of downtown, where my mom fixed meals on a hot plate with smuggled-in bags of groceries (no cooking was allowed, although she always thought the manager knew what she was up to and let her get away with it).

It was during this time, which included the bombing of Pearl Harbor, air raids and a lot of scary nights, that my dad began his regular stream of letters. In those days, that's how people communicated. Sure, there was long-distance phone service, but phones were a newfangled technology that just didn't get used unless somebody died or was about to. Besides, I'm sure he didn't have one, nor did we.

Although his letters weren't on a one-per-day schedule (in those days, mail was delivered twice a day) there definitely were a lot of them—some to me, more to my mom. The ones to me were eloquent expressions of what I've always felt represented a father's admonitions to a son, albeit one out of reach, out of touch.

Those to my mother, as she showed them to me years later, also were beautifully written, with a closeness woven between the lines that left no doubt about my father's enduring love.

The war ended, we found a small rental house, Mrs. Britt returned to Missouri, I entered fourth grade—and the letters seemed to arrive less frequently. I'm sure we knew, but never said aloud, that my dad's days were numbered.

He was being tended to at a home run by the Little Sisters of Charity, and it was that surrogate family that was with him to the end. From the time we arrived in California until the day he died in the late 1950s, I never saw him again.

That's one of the reasons his letters have remained a personal treasure these many years, and why, yellowed and timeworn, they form an unbreakable connection with someone I otherwise could have hardly known. So thanks, Dad, and Happy Father's Day.

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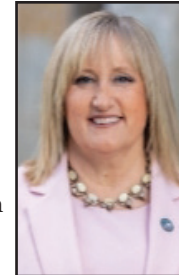
COMMENTARY

The women of Chandler: Watch them rise

By Jane Poston

Whether you're talking tech, healthcare – or even the game of golf – the stories of Chandler companies large and small are compelling, aspirational, and full of business and life lessons.

I'd like to give you a peek behind the curtain to meet some of the women who are making it happen.



My hope is that these change-makers show emerging female professionals a path to leadership and create connections for other women along the way.

For decades I've had the opportunity to meet and work with women who are having tremendous impacts in their fields.

They are true trailblazers, bringing unique ideas and leadership styles to their businesses.

The relationships I've developed over the years have helped propel my career, and vice versa. Their stories should be shouted out loud so that every young woman in Chandler knows there is a path to success.

My goal is to introduce you to those women with a new video series called Women Rise.

The show is about creating connections for women. I will introduce you to female professionals with real-world experience and real-life advice.

They get it. They live it. And they want to share their knowledge with the young women of Chandler.

Here are a just a couple examples. Female engineers have been an important part of the American economy for more than 100 years.

Edith Clarke was the first woman to earn an electrical engineering degree in 1918 – she spent most of her career at General Electric. In the 1920's, Lillian Gilbreth invented what's known as the "Kitchen Triangle", a design model that is used to this day.

A woman's voice has been – and will always be – instrumental in the field of engineering.

Najwa Khazal has been in the field for more than 20 years. Today, she leads the Services Technology Centers at Chandler-based semiconductor firm,

Edwards. She is responsible for defining, implementing and facilitating the strategic initiatives needed to support the future growth of Edwards and its customers. One important focus of her work is in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion area, where she strives to bring more women into the field of engineering.

From engineering swing curves to mastering the golf swing, it's no secret that business deals are made on the golf course. According to Forbes, 90-percent of all Fortune 500 CEOs play golf, and about 80-percent of them say it helps establish new business relationships.

So why have women been sitting these matches out?

Char Carson is a Golf Pro at Springfield Golf Resort in Chandler. She had a successful corporate career for almost two decades before finding her true passion – teaching young women the game of golf.

Throughout her career, she witnessed first-hand how women lost their seats at the deal-making table because they lacked confidence on the golf course.

Today, Char teaches young women, helping to prepare them for the workforce by mastering the golf course.

You can learn more about these incredible women by watching the first episode of Women Rise on the City of Chandler's You Tube channel or via chandleraz.gov.

Jane Poston is a member of the Chandler City Council.

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Social isolation among aged to be focus of expanded outreach

Services for older adults in Tempe will be more inclusive and focus on improving quality of life through expanded access to technology, dementia support and meaningful volunteer opportunities.

A new initiative, Enhancing Community Connectedness, is designed to meet needs in both Tempe and neighboring Guadalupe with a focus on serving Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Plans include a new slate of bilingual programs and services, activities that can help reduce social isolation and wider outreach efforts to make sure that a diversity of residents is connected to the city's offerings.

The new effort aligns with Tempe's status as an Age-Friendly Community, a national AARP designation awarded to the city last year.

"As an Age-Friendly Community, we are continually working to enhance the health, vibrancy and livability of our community for all ages," said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods. "With this new initiative, we are strengthening and accelerating services to meet even more needs, especially

in marginalized communities. Greater access to technology, more support for those with memory loss and new opportunities to stay active will be life changing for older adults in Tempe."

The city's Office of Education, Career and Family Services is leading the program. Tempe will focus on strengthening existing programs, and new offerings will be phased in throughout 2023 and 2024, according to a city announcement.

- Through the Connect Tempe program the city helps make technology more accessible to low-income older adults using an age-friendly approach. New plans call for more loanable laptops and hotspots for Tempe and Guadalupe residents, more technology classes in high-needs neighborhoods and increased classes in Spanish.

- Participants who regularly attend Dementia Friendly Tempe's Memory Café are connected to engaging activities, community resources and opportunities for socialization. Building on this success, Memory Café will now be expanded to include support groups in Spanish.

- The AARP Foundation Experience Corps program pairs tutors age 50 and older with Tempe students struggling to read. New plans include recruiting volunteers who represent the population of the students served, with a focus on the town of Guadalupe.

The city will also create activities in partnership with the town's Frank Elementary School for older adults who may appreciate more socialization.

The city's Digital Skills Ready@50+ program

offers free trainings that help participants gain the digital confidence they need to thrive in today's world. Topics include staying safe online, gmail tips and tricks and connecting to the internet.

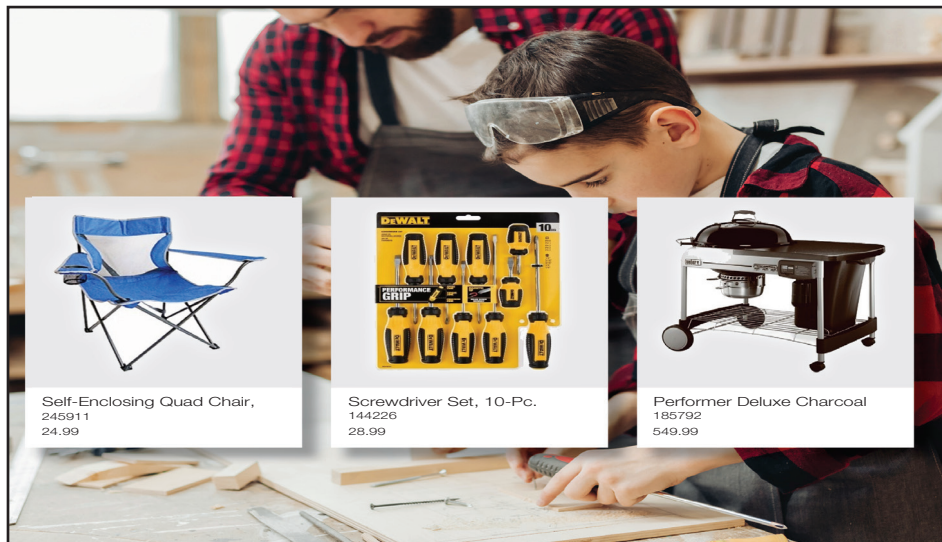
An overarching goal of the Enhancing Community Connectedness initiative is to decrease social isolation among older adults, said a spokeswoman.

"The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted serious inequities within our communities that led to increased social isolation and negative health outcomes," said Naomi Farrell, director of the Office of Education, Career and Family Services.

"By enhancing our programming and engaging a diversity of older adults, we can greatly impact the overall health of our community."

Tempe is engaging multiple community partners, including Tempe Elementary School District, the town of Guadalupe, Oak Street Health South Tempe Primary Care Clinic, Meridian @ 101 Senior Living, Desert Marigold Senior Living of Tempe, Banner Alzheimer's Institute and Higher Octave Healing.

The new initiative is Tempe's latest effort to support older adults and improve their quality of life. Tempe was the first Dementia Friendly City in Arizona, beginning Memory Café support groups and programs in 2016. The Experience Corps Tempe program, in its 17th year, serves as the national model for this tutoring approach. Last year, Tempe was selected by AARP to launch the Digital Skills Ready@50+ digital literacy classes.



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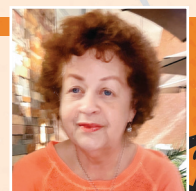
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Carol Lancaster Donigan is a member of the Desert Valley and East Valley Music Teachers Associations



Does declining news coverage require us to help fill the void?

Commentary

In my days as a young reporter for a couple of the big L.A. dailies, I guess I assumed that newspapers would be around forever. Yes, we were assured in those days, newspapers were here to stay. Well, you see where that notion has gone.

Perhaps the most recent example of how news publications are struggling to stay relevant (and alive) relates to the announcement that a substantial number of journalists at The Arizona Republic, as well as fellow staff members at other newspapers around the U.S., were holding a one- or two-day walkout to protest low wages and demand a change in the management of Gannett, the country's largest newspaper chain and owner of our state's most prominent, longest established print entity.

For lack of a better description, news like this suggests a future with declining journalistic



oversight of those who oversee the changes that are sure to come. Thus, the potential for widespread loss of trained journalists brings us closer to the very real possibility that the bulwark of serious news reporting is becoming more and more endangered.

Certainly some small community-based publications might see this as an opportunity for them to fill what appears to be a growing void in local coverage. Nothing could be further from reality. Small, neighborhood-centric newspapers like ours do not have the capacity to fill voids in traditional news coverage that inevitably will come from fewer trained journalists.

So here's our dilemma: do we somehow try to change our focus, and the economics thereof, to enter the realm of more hard-hitting coverage? In conversations with our staff, including the young news writers and photographers who we've consulted on this subject, the universal answer seems to be no. Hard-edged news coverage, they say, is not what our readership expects from a publication that has a history of telling upbeat, positive stories—stories about neighbors helping neighbors; businesses taking the pulse of their established followers and using that information to provide a customer-friendly environment in which to shop for and have confidence in needed

products and services.

So what to do, what to do.

Because we've assured you many times in the past that we plan to continue being your go-to source of neighborhood news for years to come, we also want to be sure that what we're doing is what you want from a newspaper that has arrived in your driveway every two weeks for more than three decades.

Yes, we pride ourselves on having provided what we consider to be one element of the communications glue that holds this community together, despite the incredible growth and the changes that have occurred, especially while we've occupied our offices on Warner Road across from GoDaddy for almost 20 of these past 30 years in business.

At the same time, though, we consider our readers to be partners in the direction we take this publication in the years to come.

Do you have thoughts about how Wrangler News might continue to play a worthwhile role in the ever-evolving universe that encompasses the neighborhoods of Tempe and West Chandler? If you do, we'd love to hear from you

— Don Kirkland



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Marcos de Niza High School photos and graduate listing

Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski



The big day had come for the Marcos de Niza Class of 2023. The hundreds of eager and excited seniors made their walk out to the field one last time in caps and gowns, waiting to turn the page and start the next chapter of their lives. Proud family, friends and classmates cheered on as departing seniors heard their name called to accept their diploma, signifying the completed four years of dedication and hardwork to reach this stage. Among those who earned special honors were the members of indigenous tribes or clubs who wore their gown accessories for the thousands filling the Padres stadium to see. —AL



Tempe Elementary Launches Kindergarten Prep Preschool Program



Carolyn McCleary
Early Childhood Director

A new preschool program at Tempe Elementary is preparing 4-year-olds to enter kindergarten with confidence.

Tempe Elementary's Kindergarten Prep Program, new for the 2023-2024 school year, is equipped with certified teaching staff, strong curriculum, and a supportive school setting.

"Our Kindergarten Prep Program is the perfect blend of academics and play," said Carolyn McCleary, Tempe Elementary's Early Childhood Director.

The preschool program, which follows the Arizona Early Childhood Learning Standards, is built for going beyond childhood learning. Certified preschool teaching staff are supported by District content coaches in areas of math and science to provide a comprehensive curriculum.

"Our certified teachers have elementary school teaching experience and Early Childhood credentials which will allow them to give each

child differentiated instruction and set all of our students up for success in kindergarten," McCleary said.

The program creates a strong academic base for students by extending and reinforcing those skills and concepts. The school day will also incorporate fine arts lessons and specials, including music and PE.

"That's the power of being in a school setting with certified teachers," McCleary said. "It makes a difference."

McCleary said preschoolers will also develop routines and learn how to be on a consistent schedule, behavioral building blocks that provide a foundation for confidence in kindergarten. Preschoolers will also have social and emotional wellness support incorporated throughout the school day.

Tuition is \$880/month with a \$50 registration fee. Financial assistance is available.

Kindergarten Prep is now enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year at Frank, Nevitt and Rover elementary schools! Enroll Today: School Starts on July 19. Enroll online now at www.tempeschools.org/preschool.



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School Starts July 19!



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Marcos de Niza High School Class of 2023

Aitchison Andreyka Kay
Aldaran Munoz Alondra
Allard David Benjamin
Alvarez Hernandez Maria Fernanda
Anaya Alejandro Ray
Angulo Jesus Octavio Jr.
Arellano Diana Karina
Armenta Jacob
Armenta Justin
Arner Zoey Ljubica
Arnold Roganae Jayden Charlene
Arroyo Jeremiah Andrew
Arteaga Castillo Lizette
Asghar Zahrah
Avelar Anthony Jacob
Barrios Jaylen Anthony
Beach Connor Walker
Becker Henry Paul Sebastian
Bennett Naudia Daichele
Bobo Demien David
Brooks Paulina Cymia Rosa
Bryant Brionah Rashelle
Bryant Tristan Blaze
Burkhart Madeline Spindarella
Cadena Rosas Greko
Calderon Ryleigh Elizabeth
Camarena Alejandro
Campbell Daniel William
Candelaria Matus Gabriel Alberto
Canez Mya Grace
Cano Ivy Monique
Carter Daizja Lee Padama
Cazel Jacob Browning
Charley Anissa Viviana
Chavarria Nicholas Angel
Chavez Jerry Blas III
Chavira Michael Anthony
Chilton Ryan Andrew
Cimino Seth Peter Henry Jr
Clark Charles Edward

Clark Tavon Amiri
Connell Gavin Ray
Contreras Othon Kassandra Nahomy
Coronado-Henson Kaiden Jacob
Courtright Molly Kate
Cruz Castillo Maribel Ariana
Cruz-Castillo Naysa
Cunanan Al Ain Cabus
Daily Shea Annalys
Davenport Chloe Grace
Dawson Maisey Renee
De Los Angeles Ariel Rae
De Los Angeles Clarissa Lenore
De Rienzo Aleksy Julia Duranchavez
Dean Keith Lee Jr
Delgado Barrera John
DiPomazio Giuseppe Davide
Dominguez Adalynn Grace
Drozd Tristen
Engelbert Heather Marie
Federico Aleksy Jeanneth
Flores Reyanna Irene
Flores Reyna
Fraire Jose Alberto
Freeman Aleah Phaithe Celeste
Galvez Natalie
Garcia Joseph Matthew
Garrido Alexandria Marie
Gaytan Jennifer Bejean
George Mckennon Rashawn
Gonzales Pilar Devon
Gonzales Sunshine Turquoise
Gonzalez Damian David
Gorman Kahlil Renee
Gould Kayla Alexis
Grays Adrian Garrett
Gutierrez Elizabeth Eve
Hamilton Hadley Jean
Haque Afsara Nahim
Hardy Joshua James
Hatch Pyper Jolyn
Hayes Dianha Fay
Hayes Mianha May
Hayes-Woods Kieoney Monique
Heilman Mary Rose
Henderson Shaniya Lanay
Henley Jessie Elanor
Hernandez Amanda Elena
Hernandez Morales Miranda Rachel
Hopkins Clinton Taiwan Jr

Horton Isabella Sophia
Howington Derek Allen
Husilloimea-Avila Maricela Juana
Hussein Sagal Mohamed
Huynh Derek Chac
Jimenez Devyn Xavier
Johnson Amare Anthony
Johnson Makayla Rose *Valedictorian*
Koch Aspen Lyric
Lakes Tarriyah Shenaye
Laws Treasure Lindsay Aniece
Ledesma Anna Barbara
Lemmons Tatum Marie
Lewis Dakota Drake
Lindley Thomas Lynn Floyd
Lipsey Iynaria Marisol
Lopez Benjamin James
Lopez Juan Manuel III
Lopez-Cordova Santana Gabriella
Macias Realivazquez Aldo
Madey Mohamed
Magallan Ava Madeline
Marquez Marissa Marie
Marshall-Levitch Kailee Lynne
Martin Alexander Didier
Martinez Jaeden Andrew
Martinez Jaydin Ebony
Martini Aiden Armando
Mayfield Mya Nicole
Mazon Matthew Jacob
McClure Marcus Cameron
McComas Brooke Haley
McCowanJanae Queen-Alise
McGovern John Stanton
Melendez Daisy Rayna
Mendivil Adrian
Menger Autumn Makenzie
Mestre Hernandez Yadira
Miranda JacobScott
Molina Sabrina Valerie
Mongales-Araujo Camila Marie
Montes Jaelyn Flower
Morning Star Jeffery Isao
Morrison Jaiyla Amani
Naranjo Luis Estaban Jr
Naymik Elijah Michael
Nelson Noelle Aleena
Nevarez-Valle Angelina Alicia
Nichols Zachary Thomas
Noriega Nathan William

Ocampo Edwin Josue
 O'Connell Riane Nicole
 Orcutt Samantha Lily
 Ortega Miguel Magdaleno
 Ortiz Michael
 Ozuna Micaela Acosta
 Peinado Natalia Rose
 Perez Francisco Cruz
 Perez Isaac Xavier
 Perry Deshaun Lynn
 Picena Bernal Karen Alin
 Pichardo Alvarado Luisarturo
 Pietrangeli Bella Lena
 Porras Flores Dayana Micaela
 Porter Mackenzie
 Preville Chance Michael
 Putensen Jacob David
 Ramirez Julian
 Richardson Cian Michael
 Rivas Celeste Jasmine
 Rodriguez JubileeJaden-Rouge
 Rodriguez Natalie Irma
 Rodriguez Tristan James
 Rojas Matthew
 Royalty Cameron Palmer
 Rubio Cristian Rey
 Ruiz Elian Ramon
 Russell Rachel Rosa Ann
 Rynne Derrek Cristian
 Sabedra Aiden Alexander
 Salgado Brian Armando
 Samaniego Ariyanah Anahi
 San Agustin Damarques areef
 San Juan San Pedro Abigail
 Sanvicente-Perez Jesus Alexis
 Sharif Hazaar Eltayeb
 Sharpe Amaya Faye
 Sieveking Luke Wesley
 Sirad Nimo
 Soliz Alisanna Olivia Grace
 Soliz Aurora Hailey
 Sotelo Harmonnee Klarissa s.
 Soto Alejandra Natalia
 Soto Vasquez Edith
 Starr Emily Michelle
 Steinert Lauren Elizabeth

Stromstad Mason Reeve
 Suggs Rayvell Tyriq
 Supriyasilp Sam
 Taylor Aumniah Jamil
 Thiel Edison Sky
 Thompson I'Moni Lashay
 Thompson Kobe
 Tilley Ian Michael
 Tillman Kemora
 Trejo Ochoa Arlyn
 Trujillo Isabella
 Turner Caylor Blain
 Ulm Colby Davis
 Uriarte Myreah Angela
 Vacaneri Dallas Alexander
 Valdez Miguel Alexander
 Valencia Serena Lasette
 Valenzuela Anthony Michael
 Valenzuela Jacob A
 Vardak Jacob Batool
 Vazquez Ana-Yulisa Saldana
 Vega Aiden Alexander
 Vega Lillianna L
 Verdugo Adam Johnathan
 Verdugo Araya Ashanti
 Verdugo Samara Eli
 Vicenti Martin Charles
 Villa Campoy Julia
 Vine Ja'nae Marie
 Watkins Beau Riley
 Watson Jireh
 Watts Laila Malee
 Wellard Kaden Robert
 Werkmeister Riley Scott
 West Daniel III
 Wheeler Matthew-Alexander
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 Williams Ethan Isaak
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 Willis Samaria Adranay
 Young Jamaal Ahmad II
 Young Wyatt John
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FAITH

St. James Episcopal's Tempe retreat sheds light on teaching that love transcends all

By Tony Gutiérrez

Often depicted as a statue in people's yards next to birdbaths, St. Francis of Assisi was much more than a saint with an affinity towards animals and creation, though he was that, too, said the Rev. Valerie Hart.

Hart, a Third Order Franciscan and Episcopalian priest, led a "Charism of Francis" retreat at St. James the Apostle Episcopal Church in Tempe on June 3.

She and other Third Order Franciscans from across the Americas were visiting Arizona for their convocation held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, where she preached at the Friday Eucharist service.

"He said the same thing to the birds he said to the people, and he couldn't stop saying this. He would wander around and would tell people, 'God loves you. God loves you more than you can imagine,'" Hart said during her presentation. She also highlighted the lives of St. Francis and his female counterpart St. Clare of Assisi, noting Francis' dramatic conversion.

After being captured during a war between Italian city-states, Francis returned and worked to physically repair the church, digging and begging for rocks.

Eventually, he realized the charge was to rebuild the church as institution and reform it from within. He gave away everything he had, eventually upsetting his wealthy father and dramatically stripping down and renouncing all of his wealth.

"He took off his father's clothes to give it back, to which the bishop put a robe around him. But he gave it all away," said Hart, who is also a trained psychologist.

"He realized that anything you're attached to keeps you from freedom to be able to do whatever

God calls to you in a moment."

In an attempt to stop the Crusades, he sought an audience with the Sultan to try to convert the Islamic Empire to Christianity. Although it didn't work, they left with a mutual respect for each other. Among his followers was a woman named Clare from a wealthy family.

The friars cut her hair as a way for her to embrace poverty. After battling with her father, she eventually received the support of the local bishop and would go on to establish convents of women also embracing this radical lifestyle.

Hart first encountered St. Francis when a friend gave her a fictionalized biography by Nikos Kazantzakis. She was enthralled until she got to the part where he renounced everything.

"I went, 'I can't do that. I can't give it all away.' Something in me said I should be doing that, but I can't do that," she recalled. "I couldn't read it for 20 years. That was my first call from St. Francis."

She felt another tug as she was preparing for ordination and again when she was traveling cross-country in an RV with her golden retriever. That last time, she no longer had an excuse and entered formation with the Third Order community.

Because Third Order members still live in the world, they focus more on simplicity than on poverty. One member, Hart noted, only wears white and black, which prevents her from having to purchase expensive clothes or spend time determining what to wear based on what matches. Members are also required to create a rule of life for themselves that includes — in addition to living simply — attending at least one weekday Eucharist and praying three times a day.

"It gives structure, and it constantly is reminding me of what I really want to do. So, it will be, 'Oh, I'm really busy today. I'm so tired now,' but I have to do Evening Prayer because I made that commitment," she said.

"The whole point of poverty is that it forces you to trust God. We realize that it's all God's, and we don't have any power, anyway. You may just as well rely on Him."

As part of the retreat, Hart challenged attendees to create their own Rule of Life to follow and help them detach more from the material world and grow closer to God.

Susan Hillman — who is currently in her first year of deacon formation for the Episcopal Diocese

of Arizona — has had a lifelong devotion to St. Francis and drove from her home parish of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Tucson to attend the retreat.

She says she found it helpful as she prepares for her own ordination, hopefully in 2026.

"Something that ties in very closely to the diaconate formation is really thinking about a Rule of Life and what are my priorities and how can I fit my spirituality into my daily life and give it priority," she said.

Although saints and religious orders are more common in the Catholic Church, they are also present within the Anglican/Episcopalian tradition. Some are saints who are also venerated in the Catholic tradition — especially those from the pre-Reformation era — some come from the Anglican tradition and some come from other traditions.

"We see them as a model of and an example of life for us. They had a life that served as a model for us to enter the dream of God of the better kingdom of justice and peace," said the Rev. Sam Leite, rector of St. James.

"We see how God moves in these holy people help us to learn better about how to dialogue with God and with this world."

With events like the retreat, Leite said he hopes to make the parish a center of spirituality, justice and inclusion.

"If the church is not exposed to the life of the saints and methods of spirituality — or in this case of the Franciscan charism — we don't have many options for growth and feel renewed," he said.

In a self-published memoir, Hart recounted her own vocation journey in more detail.

After the retreat, she reflected with *Wrangler News* the effect Franciscan spirituality can have on today's divisive world. "His greatest intention was to be like Christ, whatever it took to be like Christ. And he took that very literally, in terms of his peacemaking, in terms of his almsgiving, in terms of his simplicity, in terms of his teaching," she said.

"The spirit of Francis is really important in this time because the way we've become so divided and antagonistic. Love can transcend all of those differences."

Tony Gutiérrez teaches at Seton Catholic High School and is a former editor of the Diocese of Phoenix Catholic Sun publication.

Chandler business climate rated best in state based on wide-ranging benchmarks

Chandler has been named Best City for Business by the Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry during its annual awards ceremony held June 6. Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke accepted the award.

The city was nominated by the chamber's executive committee based on its notably business-friendly climate and processes, according to the group, which added that Chandler's regulatory and tax climate make it easy and attractive for businesses to relocate and expand.

"Chandler's City Council is committed to having a pro-business environment where businesses of all sizes can thrive and continue to grow," said Hartke. "Our Economic Development Division, led by Micah Miranda, plays a huge role in supporting new and existing companies in Chandler. It's definitely a team effort to stay connected and support our business community."

Notable accomplishments include:

- Supported leading high-tech companies in opening new facilities in Chandler, including Insight, VIAVI and Edwards.
- Assisted with locate, retention and expansion

projects, including Tokyo Electron, Intel's Fab Construction Enterprise unit, Cirrus Logic, Titan Solar Power and Raley's.

- Supported the expansion of higher education opportunities, including the opening of the University of Arizona's new location and announcement of Grand Canyon University's new nursing program located in West Chandler.
- Worked with Arizona State University on an activation plan for the ASU Chandler Innovation Center to introduce additional programs and resources for students, entrepreneurs, and other community members.
- Participated in more than 55 market assessment calls/visits with Chandler businesses to better understand their opportunities for growth.
- Facilitated industry roundtable discussions to receive input on how the city can best support business and economic growth.
- Continued to execute an "I Choose Chandler" marketing campaign with a focus on encouraging residents to shop in Chandler during

— Please turn to Pg. 24



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michele.gimaldi@tempeschools.org



DIVERSIONS

Arts center unveils its 2023 array of creative offerings for, well, almost everybody



By M.V. Moorhead

Dance-a-thon, Sell-a-thon, Spell-a-thon—pretty much any human activity that can be sustained for any length of time is subject to having the suffix “a-thon” slapped on it.

On Saturday, June 24, Tempe Center for the Arts gets into the act with an event designed for anyone who can’t leave a blank space empty if they have a pencil in their hand:

“Draw-A-Thon.”

The annual shindig, held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the center, celebrates the urge to draw at every level of ambition, from scribbling and doodling to sketching to illustration, and at every level of skill and experience.

Every age level is welcome too; the free event is aimed at kids and grownups alike, although it’s kid-friendly during the day, adults only after dark.

“Draw-A-Thon originated in the summer of 2018,” says Michelle Dock, senior visual arts curator at TCA.

“Tempe has a strong history of providing arts education programs for the community...We knew that some of our youth visitors’ favorite activities included drawing challenges which sparked their imaginations and problem-solving skills.

“While researching ideas for a drawing-themed exhibition, we ran across ‘Draw-A-Thon’ events in cities like Denver, New Orleans and New York.

“The idea really clicked...Our visitors and staff alike had such a great time that we decided to make that ‘umbrella theme’ idea our guide for future summer programs. Even during COVID closures, Draw-A-Thon became an important part of distanced outreach the city needed. In 2020 and 2021, Tempe’s Draw-A-Thons included Facebook live drawing tutorials, DIY art making videos on the city’s YouTube channel and a coloring book which we distributed through the Tempe Public Library, community centers and the Tempe Fire Department.”

This year the day unfolds from 10 a.m. to 4

p.m., with the “Family Friendly” portion of the festival.

Draw-A-Thon-ers of all ages will get the chance to try out a variety of drawing tools, ranging from new technological methods of drawing to good old-fashioned pencil and paper.

But will there be instruction for people (like this writer) who can’t draw?

“Of course!” Dock assures me.

“There are so many opportunities for visitors of all ages to enjoy drawing at the event.

“Whether your skills include basic doodling, coloring and/or advanced draftsmanship, Draw-A-Thon activities are designed to be fun and welcoming.

“We often hear guests talk about how surprised they were to learn some new skills. We also hear from moms, dads, and grandparents about how they enjoyed the art making as much as the kids.”

At various art booths, visitors will receive the benefit of instruction and guidance from professional artists, as well as activities, games, food and other fun.

“Many of the Draw-A-Thon artists are also educators,” notes Dock, “so they bring with them plenty of experience and practical knowledge about teaching drawing to others.”

Then starting at 6 p.m. is the 18 and older part of Draw-A-Thon. Titled “Drag & Draw,” it features not only drawing but drinks, a DJ and local performers Veronica Savage Rose and Thee Koco Caine, who will model extravagant outfits and radiate glamour for the artists in attendance to capture.

The “open-studio style” drawing sessions will go on while the music keeps on spinning.

“This year,” says Dock, “The artists lined up are focused on inspiring self-expression and creativity with the Hear Me, See Me summer exhibition...Best of all, it’s free and it takes place inside the TCA. A great way to beat the heat and enjoy the arts.”



At previous Gallery @ TCA Draw-A-Thons, creativity reigned as kids let their ideas flow into distinctive works of art

— Photos courtesy city of Tempe.

Gallery @ TCA

DRAW-A-THON

JUNE 24
FREE admission



MORE INFO

480.350.2822
tempecenterforthearts.com

Tempe Center for the Arts 



Gallery @ TCA

HEAR ME. SEE ME.

MAY 5 — SEP 9

2023 SUMMER JURIED EXHIBITION

FREE admission



MORE INFO





— Photo courtesy city of Chandler

— Continued from Page 21

the holiday shopping season.

- Initiated a place branding project for the Airpark Area employment corridor with a new branded monument sign designed and upcoming installation at seven locations throughout the area.

- Maintained Economic Development-specific social media platforms (Twitter and LinkedIn) with a year-over-year audience of more than 5,000 total followers and published content receiving more than 1.8 million impressions.

- Published a small business guide and a community profile to provide entrepreneurs and business decision-makers with information on resources and opportunities in Chandler.

- Hosted the 12th annual Chandler Innovation Fair in partnership with Chandler Unified School District that showcases businesses, artists, students and innovators in the community as Chandler participates in the statewide Arizona SciTech Festival.

- The Tourism office met one-on-one with more than 150 meeting and event planners to promote Chandler as a small meetings destination.

- Used Visit Arizona Initiative Marketing Grant funds to promote Chandler as a meeting and events destination.

- Produced and published the 2023 Chandler Visitor's Guide and launched Visit Chandler eNewsletter and Chandler Like a Local video series.

- The VIAMI corporate headquarters relocation and new manufacturing facility project was recognized by the Arizona Association for Economic Development with an award of merit in the Deal of the Year category at 2022 Golden Prospector Awards.

- Economic Development Director Micah Miranda was recognized by the Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED) as Economic Developer of the Year in the category of Large Community at the 2023 AAED Economic Development Distinguished by Excellence Awards.



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Dine-in: 11:00 AM - 8:15 PM



A trip back in time

Do you know the story of one of Tempe's nearest neighbors? Tempe Time Machine offers a chance to celebrate the unique and thriving town of Guadalupe, a colorful and creative destination for families and curious grownups to discover the community's not-so-hidden secrets with crafts, stories, activities and live demonstrations. Programs start at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for each event.

The 2023 Time Machine program is inspired by the museum's current exhibit "Guadalupe: Where Three Cultures Flourish."

The celebration is free and registration is not required. Groups of 10 or more are welcome.

For the best experience, planners advise calling 480-350-5140 to schedule date of your planned and time time of arrival.

Tempe Time Machine dates

June 21: Mariachi Music! — Find out why mariachi music means so much to people in Guadalupe! Join us to celebrate a joyful musical tradition with Mariachi Estrella de Cobre, whose name means "Copper Star." These young musicians cultivate their talent and abilities to share the cultural importance of mariachi with everyone.

June 28: Glorious Gardens! — Semalulukut means "hummingbird," and we know how important these birds

and other pollinators are for plants in the desert. But do you know why people in Guadalupe decided to create a community garden, and what foods and flowers grow there? Find out more about Semalulukut Community Garden, and how you can grow a glorious garden of your own!

July 5: Stories Under the Ramada! — Information on performers and activities coming soon.

July 12 — Back to School in Guadalupe!

10th annual Juneteenth celebration

Saturday, June 17

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.





SPORTS NOTEBOOK

with Alex Zener

The No. 5 ranked Aztecs, with an 18-11, 9-1 6A Central record, ended their 2023 baseball season in a heartbreaking 10-9 loss to #16 Sunnyslope in the third round of the 6A state championships played on Corona's home field May 4.

As the No. 5 ranked 6A team and the top Central Region team, Corona automatically qualified for the playoffs.

The Aztecs defeated No. 12 Chandler 6-2 in the first round on April 29, and moved on to play No. 4 Mountain Ridge in the second round, on May 2, at Diablo Stadium.

The Aztecs lost to Mountain Ridge 4-10 in the double elimination tournament and were moved to the loser's bracket, where they lost to Sunnyslope 9-10.

The Aztecs led Sunnyslope 7-3 until the fifth inning when the Vikings outscored them 6-0 and Corona fell behind by two runs at 7-9.

Corona scored a run in the sixth to be down one run at 8-9, but the Vikings went up 8-10 at the top of the seventh inning and the Aztecs could only score one run to end the game 9-10 in favor of Sunnyslope.

The Aztecs had three players score two runs each, including senior **Jacob Gutierrez**, senior **Cole Carlon** and sophomore **Jaiden Lo Re**.

Senior **Conner Bigelow**, senior **Trey Anderson** and junior **Myles Harrison** scored one run apiece.

Carlon and Harrison led the team with a batting average of .667, each while Gutierrez and Anderson each had two RBIs.

Junior **Owen McGraw**, sophomore **David Baxter** and Harrison each had one RBI.

Lo Re lead the team with two stolen bases, while Gutierrez and McGraw had one each.

On defense, junior **Jack Trimble** and Harrison led the team in putouts with six each while Harrison had five putouts, McGraw three and Bigelow with two putouts and three assists.

Freshman **Preston Berg** and freshman **Parker Williams** both had a 1.000 fielding percentage with one putout each.

Senior **Justin Corless** pitched for three innings with a 7.00 earned run average, while freshman **Preston Berg** and Carlon pitched the rest of the innings.

The Aztecs honored their nine seniors at their last home game on April 24 against Highland, which they won 8-6.

Honored that night were Gutierrez, **Landon Springmeyer**, infielder Bigelow, infielder

Anderson, left-handed pitcher and first baseman Carlon, right-handed pitcher and outfielder Corless, left-handed pitcher **Gabe Carrizoza**, right-handed pitcher **Kobe Ladd** and infielder **Zane Coggins**.

Gutierrez, as a utility player, played multiple defensive position for the Aztecs in all 29 games. On defense he put out 77 players and had 7 assists on 88 chances. At bat he scored nine runs on 19 hits and had 16 RBI's.

Playing catcher, Springmeyer had a 1.000 fielding percentage, putting out 80 batters and assisting on 14 more during his 88 chances. At bat, he had eight RBIs on seven hits.

Bigelow played in all 29 games, accumulating 27 hits to score 21 runs and 13 RBI's. On defense, he put out 32 baserunners, assisted on 32 and had eight double plays.

Anderson scored 14 runs on 20 hits with eight RBIs and one homerun. While playing defense, he had 16 putouts and 32 assists, plus 2 double plays.

Carlon, one of the Aztecs' leading pitchers, started in 11 out of 12 appearances on the mound where he was credited with eight wins and two losses. He had the second lowest ERA out of Corona's pitchers at 1.95, while junior **CJ Arrellano** had the lowest ERA at 1.25.

Carlon pitched in 61 innings, only allowing 56 hits and 25 runs, while striking out 90 batters.

When Carlon was not pitching, he was usually playing first base, where he put out 41 baserunners and assisted on 11 with three double plays.

As a batter, Carlon had the second highest batting average on the team at 0.375. Harrison led the team with a 0.413 batting average.

Carlon led the team in several stat categories including hits, RBIs, doubles, triples, homeruns and slugging percentage.

He is credited with 33 hits and scoring 23 runs. He had 28 RBIs, 12 more than the next batter, nine doubles, two triples, five homeruns and a 0.693 slugging percentage.

As a team, the Aztecs only hit 11 home runs—five by Carlon, two by Lo Re, and one each by Gutierrez, Anderson, Corless and Harrison.

Corless, one of the four senior pitchers out 10 on Corona's roster, was the starting pitcher in one game but made appearances on the mound six times where he pitched in over 15 innings. He is credited with winning one game.

Corless batted in 13 games where he scored two runs, hit one double and one home run along with three RBIs.

Carrizoza made two appearances on the mound pitching in over two innings where he struck out three batters.

Ladd pitched in eight innings when he made seven appearances on the pitching mound. He struck out 11 batters while only allowing seven hits.

Coggins put out 13 baserunners and had four assists on defense. He had a 0.400 batting average with four hits on 10 plate appearances.

Other members of Corona's baseball team who contributed to the Aztecs success on and off the field include juniors **Carson Hammer**, **Jaxon Hamilton** and **Nick Mustacchia**, sophomores **Max Sinkovic**, **Quintin "Thor" Pelczarski** and **Eli Wilbricht** and freshman **Jaxen Maxey**.

Marcos de Niza baseball

The Padres ended the 2023 season with a 10-15-1 overall record and ranked No. 28 in the 4A conference.

The Padres honored nine seniors at their last home game on April 20 against Mesquite.

Honored that last game were team captain, pitcher and infielder **Dallas Vacaneri**, pitcher, infielder and outfielder **Noah Heyn**, pitcher and third baseman **Wyatt Young**, outfielder **Colby Ulm**, pitcher and infielder **Kaleb Kraut**, pitcher and infielder **Matthew Cota**, team captain and outfielder **Anthony Avelar**, team captain and outfielder **Jacob Cazal** and pitcher, first baseman and third baseman **Jimmy Matuz**.

Heyn led the team in several stat categories, including batting average, stolen bases, hits, RBIs and slugging percentage.

Heyn has a 0.444 batting average scoring 24 runs and 36 hits with 18 RBI's, six doubles and one homerun with a slugging percentage of 0.555.

Avelar was second on the team in hits, just one down from Heyn, with 35 hits.

Heyn had five stolen bases while Kraut was second on the team with 3 stolen bases.

Vacaneri led the pitching staff with the lowest ERA at 2.71 while Cota was second with a 3.45 ERA.

Other members of the team who contributed to the Padres' success on and off the field include juniors **Jadon Valenzuela**, **JP McIntyre**, **Jeremiah Paiz**, **Michael Rowley**, **Spencer Schellhase**, **Manwe Castro**, **Christian Acosta** and **Daniel Berg**, sophomores **Ryder Kowalczyk** and **Izayah Abril** and freshmen **Tony Medina** and **Jesus Valles**.



July 2023

Tempe 4th of July Celebration

Celebrate
Independence Day
with live music,

activities for kids
and a fireworks
celebration at Tempe

Diablo Stadium, 2200
W. Alameda Drive. The
family fun kicks off at
4 p.m. on Tuesday, July
4. Enjoy games and
activities for the whole
family, live music,
craft food from local
vendors, sweet treats

and more presented by
Kiwanis Club of Tempe
in partnership with the
City of Tempe. Tickets
are \$10 for adults, \$100
for VIP, and children 10
and under are free. Get
tickets and learn more
at tempe4th.com.



Summer is upon us: Make it safer with these tips

• Know the ABCs of water safety: Adult supervision, Barriers and Classes. Enroll children in swim lessons. You can take a class in Tempe! Visit tempe.gov/swim to learn more.

• Never leave kids or pets in the car for any amount of time. Double check the backseat before you leave the car.

• Fireworks can be dangerous and not all

types are legal to use within Tempe. There also are considerations for veterans and pets when it comes to fireworks use. Learn more at tempe.gov/fireworks.

• Eligible residents can get help this summer with paying utilities, rent or repairing the air conditioning. Get details and learn about income eligibility at tempe.gov/HeatRelief. Rent, mortgage

and utility assistance is available through city payment plans, Tempe Community Action Agency assistance and more. Emergency home repairs, weatherization and emergency air conditioning repairs can be done with help from the city and Maricopa County.

And temporary housing options for pets are available.

Thank your Garbologists this month!

June is Garbologist Month, but we love our Tempe Garbologists every day! Tempe's garbology experts (Solid Waste staff) take pride in their work. Their efforts help keep Tempe clean by collecting solid waste and recycling each week. We know how special

a neighborhood's relationship can be with its "Garbologist" – even the smallest Tempe kids love to wave and watch them at work! If this fits you and your neighbors, take a moment to show your appreciation in June. You can make a sign and post it in your yard or alley.

Make chalk art on the sidewalk. You can send in an email or call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311.

Learn more at tempe.gov/garbologist.

Teens can get clothes, hygiene items this summer

Middle and High School students in Tempe are welcome from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to shop at THREADZ at the Mountain Pointe High School location on June 20 and 27.

THREADZ will also re-open at all

three locations for back to school needs on July 17-18.

Each location has a free and wide selection of new and gently used items like clothes, school supplies and hygiene products.

The locations are Tempe High School, Marcos de Niza and Mountain Pointe.

For more information, visit tempecommunitycouncil.org/threadz.

www.tempe.gov



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*Automation package is not compatible with all
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before accepting contract. Expires 12/31/2023.



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Disability Law



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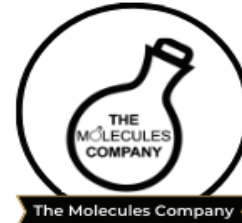
LARGE BUSINESS
(51+EMPLOYEES)



SMALL BUSINESS
(6-50 EMPLOYEES)



MICRO BUSINESS
(1-5 EMPLOYEES)



NONPROFIT



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDEES!

Chandler-Gilbert graduates show college's growing attraction to area students

Despite what once might have seemed challenging travel times, more and more Tempe and West Chandler students are signing up for classes at Chandler-Gilbert Community College.

This is confirmed by the school's marketing and communications spokesperson Lisha Dunlap, who notes that the approximate 10-mile drive between this area and the CGCC campus seems to come up less and less frequently.

Evidence of the increased recognition of the Chandler campus, part of the Maricopa Community College system, was in full display last month when the school celebrated its Class of 2023, consisting



of 739 graduates earning 750 degrees.

President Greg Peterson expressed the college's pride in this class, saying, "Impressively, the youngest graduate is 16, with three graduates being dual-enrolled high school students and the oldest being 55 years young."

In addition, Peterson noted community service completed by the graduates, with over 10,510 hours of service provided.

"This is just one example of how the Class of 2023 is poised to change the world," he said. There were also 34 veterans among this year's crop of graduates.

The 2023 grads also performed well academically during their time at the college. This year, 116 graduates received scholarships; 102

are honor students, and 314 received academic distinctions by graduating with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

CGCC is a fast-growing member of the Maricopa Community College system with a total of nearly 14,000 credit students each year, according to spokesperson Dunlap.

The college's population is diverse—31 percent are first-generation college students and 39 percent are dual-enrolled high school students.

The college is additionally recognized as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, a designation from the U.S. Department of Education that recognizes accredited, degree-granting higher education institutions with 25 percent or more total undergraduate Hispanic and Latinx student enrollment.

With 27 percent Hispanic students, CGCC is one of 22 schools in Arizona to earn the HSI designation, and one of nine within the Maricopa County Community College District.

This year, CGCC also celebrated its 30th anniversary. As the school continues to grow and evolve in the East Valley, currently with four locations, its vision is "to be the preferred college in the Southeast Valley as we deliver impactful and innovative learning pathways that keep our local communities thriving," said Peterson.

It pays to use alternative transportation

With current gas prices, you may be considering an alternative transportation option for your commute to work, school or for day-to-day errands. Chandler offers several options to fit a variety of needs. One obvious benefit includes saving money, but many options also reduce stress — a simpler commute can help you relax, read, do homework or even catch up on the latest show you're bingeing.

To learn more about alternative ways to get around the City, visit chandleraz.gov/transportation, or call 480-782-3440.





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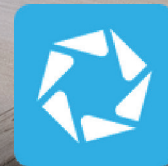
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