



WRANGLER NEWS

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Kyrene, Tempe Elementary and TUHSD reach agreement on a unified school calendar beginning in 2023-24, when school will start on July 19.
Page 3



As gas prices and air fares escalate, try a staycation at myriad excellent resorts in our own backyard that are offering summer specials.
Page 14



Andrus Peat, who is in a long line of successful athletes with ties to Corona del Sol High School, gives back during his recent youth football camp.
Page 22

SPLISH SPLASH ... and OH SO COOL!

What better way to beat the heat than spending a summer afternoon at South Tempe's Kiwanis Park, where a splash pad is only one of the inviting attractions for kids, teens ... even sun-weary others looking for a quick, refreshing getaway.

— Wrangler News photo by Billy Hardiman

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FIND NEW ROADS™



TUHSD, Kyrene, Tempe El unify school calendars; adopt 2-2-2 schedule for 2023-24 classes

Unification intended to bring convenience to families, but many oppose new format

While there never has been overwhelming sentiment to unify Tempe Union High

School District with Kyrene and Tempe Elementary, the three public-school districts that serve South Tempe and West Chandler have come together on unification of their school calendars starting with the 2023-24 school year.

Each of the three Governing Boards this month independently and unanimously approved not only identical calendars but also adoption of a modified year-round schedule – known as 2-2-2 – with two weeks off for fall break, two weeks off for winter break and two weeks off for spring break.

This, in turn, shortens summer break, which educators favor because, they say, it helps students retain information from one school year to the next. As a result, school will start earlier. The 2023-24 school year opens July



School will start July 19, 2023, after Tempe Union High School District along with Kyrene and Tempe Elementary reach agreement on a unified calendar beginning with the 2023-24 school year, which features controversial 2-2-2 modified year-round schedule. – Wrangler News file photo.

19. The 2-2-2 calendar is similar to that used for the past several years by Chandler Unified School District.

For the past year, a seven-member panel of representatives from TUHSD,

Kyrene and Tempe Elementary looked into the pros and cons of the plan. District stakeholders were surveyed about the potential change. Of more than

— CALENDAR, Page 6

Education coverage starting on Page 3 was researched, developed and written by Wrangler News Executive Editor Lee Shappell



Clip-and-save unified school year calendar, Page 7

Tempe El, TUHSD putting budget measures to voters in fall



Diane Meulemans

Two of the three public school districts serving South Tempe and West Chandler will ask voters to approve funding measures in the Nov. 8 election.

Tempe Union High School district has three measures: a \$100 million bond as well as a maintenance and operations budget override and a district additional assistance override.

Meanwhile, Tempe Elementary School District is asking voters to approve a \$196.5 million bond issue.

The third school district in the area, Kyrene, got its additional funding last fall when voters overwhelmingly approved continuation of a maintenance and operations budget override. Kyrene saw its override pass with 61 percent of the vote to support teacher salaries, smaller class sizes, special-area instruction like music and art, and targeted student support services.

TUHSD is looking for something similar — and more. Its maintenance and operations budget override request would be 15

percent for five years, and then 10 percent for Year 6 and 5 percent for Year 7. Its district additional assistance override, which covers items that the bond and M&O override don't, would be for 10 percent a year over seven years.

If all three measures carry, taxes would increase to 0.7998 per \$100 of assessed valuation, or by about \$52 a year to \$200 on a home valued at roughly \$250,000.

A 38-member citizens advisory group

— BONDS, Page 4

Bonds

From Page 3

assessed TUHSD's needs as well as what it believed the community would support, according to the district.

"The committee recommended that we should go out for all three questions," said Diane Meulemans, TUHSD assistant superintendent for business services. "Committee members felt that, yes, a slight tax increase would be acceptable but there needs to be messaging in regard to that, something specific about how each community around our schools benefits, how this impacts their particular school."

Voters approved an override in 2017, which is now timing out. Since then, TUHSD teacher salaries have improved 24 percent, to \$47,934, for a starting teacher with a bachelor's degree; by 16 percent, to \$65,562, for a middle-range teacher with a master's; and by 16 percent, to \$87,090, for top-level teachers with a doctorate.

"We told voters we'd use that for teacher compensation," Meulemans said.

"And our teacher salaries went up well above the state average since that last override kicked in in 2018

because of our community support. It's important to show our community that we did what we told them we were going to do."

And now, she added, "We need to tell the voters what happens if it passes and what happens if it doesn't."

If the TUHSD 15 percent maintenance and operations override does not pass, the district must pare \$4.3 million from its budget each of the next three years, a cut of \$13 million.

That undoubtedly would impact class sizes, core instruction, elective programs, support services, preventative maintenance, professional development, tech services, athletics and teacher salaries, according to the district.

This past fiscal year, 65 percent of the district's expenses were paid from the maintenance and operations budget.

In the district's request for a 10 percent additional assistance override, it is asking for \$8.7 million a year, an increase of \$2.2 million. Those funds are used for such things as buildings, furniture, athletic equipment, computer software, textbooks, library books, and to pay down principal and interest on bonds.

Meulemans anticipates that 59.4 percent of an additional assistance override would go to technology,

including laptops and improved software and wireless internet service.

In TUSHD's \$100 bond request, Marcos de Niza stands to gain \$11.73 million and Corona del Sol \$13.54 million with passage.

The district would upgrade science labs and auditoriums, repair aging flooring, improve or expand locker rooms, buy buses and improve district fuel-storage tanks, and repair or upgrade plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems. The district also plans to convert all lighting – inside and outside – to LED.

Meanwhile, in Tempe Elementary School District, the board is requesting a school-improvement bond of \$196.5 million for, among other things, the rebuilding of Fees College Prep Middle School, Rover Elementary, Connolly Middle School and Curry Elementary.

The money also would cover safety and security improvements, new buses and critical maintenance of HVAC, roofing and air handlers.

Tempe Elementary estimates the tax impact to be about \$69 a year for a home with tax valuation of \$100,000.

Its poll indicates that 68 percent of voters are likely to support the bond, according to Tempe Elementary.

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Calendar

From Page 3

8,000 responses, the tally was close: 46 percent favored the change, 42 percent opposed it and 11 percent had no opinion.

Those results suggest that not all families are crazy about the new format.

“(The study) captured the multiple ways our families and staff are intermingled,” said Lisa Gibson, Kyrene executive director of talent management.

While identical calendars are expected to be more convenient for planning for families with students in more than one of those districts, a potential downside could be the need for additional childcare during the three longer breaks.

Gibson said the three districts are looking into finding low-cost childcare providers before and after school as well as during the breaks.

Many families prefer the traditional 10-week summer break between school years to the new 8-week break.

Speakers at the Tempe Union High School District board meeting who oppose the change cited the majority of TUHSD families that voted against it, greater childcare expenses and the need for more time to unwind during the summer for both students and teachers.

“We are giving our families a whole year in advance with the calendar,” TUHSD Superintendent Kevin J. Mendivil said.

“I am happy today that we are working on something as a tri-district partnership since we share many of the families.

“I’ve been here 11 years and I know from speaking with teachers and employees this is something they’ve been wanting to explore.”

TUHSD board member Andres Barraza acknowledged that those making public comments “raised very good concerns.”

“We should continue to have an ave-

nue for community input — from students, from teachers,” Barraza said.

TUHSD board member Sarah James added that her younger sisters and husband attended schools where the year-round system was used and had “a really positive experience.”

“I sympathize with the hesitancy around it, that’s normal with change,” James said.

“But as a district, we do need to listen to our families and students and make some refinements.”

Berdetta Hodge, a TUHSD board member, who recently was elected to Tempe City Council, expressed happiness “to be in line with our feeder schools,” but added her concerns about parents lining up babysitting during the longer in-school-year breaks.

Among the advantages cited by the committee for the 2-2-2 format are year-round learning to better bridge school years and help students retain information, additional opportunities during the school year for targeted student-learning support, increased opportunities for staff professional development and benefit to programs and activities outside of school that follow school calendars.

The Kyrene School District sent a letter to parents stating that the calendar committee worked “to align calendars, to better serve our families and staff with children enrolled in multiple districts.”

The committee considered survey feedback from all three districts, calendar trends in surrounding districts, and best practices for student learning.

“Kyrene School District will have a full year to prepare for this transition, to address the unique needs of families and staff, from childcare options to work schedules.

“Additional information will be shared in the coming year.”

TUHSD, Kyrene, Tempe El unified 2023-24 school year calendar

July-23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July	
4	4th of July (Holiday)
10	New Teacher Report
14	Returning Teachers Report
19	First Day for Students

January-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August-23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August	

September	
4	Labor Day - No School (Holiday)
22	End of Quarter 1 (47 days)
25-29	Fall Break

February-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

September-23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October	
2-6	Fall Break
9	Staff Development Day (GAP)
10	Start of Quarter 2

March-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

October-23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November	
10	Veteran's Day - No School (Holiday)
22-24	Thanksgiving Break (Holiday)

April-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

November-23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December	
15	End of Quarter 2 (45 days)
18-31	Winter Break

May-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December-23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January	
1	New Year's Day (Holiday)
2	Teacher Planning Day
3	Beginning of Quarter 3
15	Martin Luther King Day - No School

June-24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

February	
19	President's Day - No School

March	
8	Quarter 3 Ends (46 days)
11-22	Spring Break
25	Teacher Planning Day
26	Quarter 4 Begins
29	Spring Holiday

April	

May	
23	Quarter 4 Ends (42 days) Last Day of School
27	Memorial Day (Holiday)

Legend	
47	Quarter 1 (September 22)
45	Quarter 2 (December 15)
46	Quarter 3 (March 8)
42	Quarter 4 (May 23)
180	Total Student Days

11

0



OPINIONS

Education, business, voters share common ground in education funding – if only Legislature would let it happen

By Dick Foreman

Let's not talk about "proposed" budgets, just for starters.

There are a lot of proposals. But we all know that legislative leadership has the biggest sounding drum. When they propose, sure, it does mean more. That said, as of this writing there isn't a deal yet.



Dick Foreman

Perhaps a little consolidation of proposals would make some sense.

Lest this come as a surprise to anyone, the major proposals for an education funding "deal" have a lot in

common — until one gets to the Republican leadership proposal.

It's like looking at one of those preschool pictures of objects and the question is, "Which one does not belong?" Imagine four pictures: a cherry, an apple, a strawberry and a stick of celery. Which one does not belong? (Sorry, no hints.)

Of course, when it comes to a final budget, the answer is not quite that simple. A logic test of images in our brain stimulates a response that quilts commonality and forms a pattern, color, purpose or design that makes sense.

Unfortunately, that exercise is futile in politics because the one that belongs is the one that gets at least 16 state senators, 31 house members and the governor to agree.

That is the one that belongs, no matter what it looks like.

So what can or should education and business advocates do? And what should they be saying?

First, the process is one of checks and balances. And those checks and balances include the will of the people of Arizona. When given a direct opportunity, Arizona voters increased investment in public education in spite of well-funded opposition.

Secondly, every lobbyist or advocate worth their weight in salt will work the process to the bitter end, no matter how things look. The final deal can, indeed, come together at the last minute. When there is this much conflict, that is usually the case.

Thirdly, what do the education and business groups have in common with what they are asking the legislature to consider? How much does that matter?

There is broad agreement on this: Base funding should be increased significantly, approaching what was voter approved last November, and focused on increased teacher pay.

Business and education leaders support inclusion of a poverty weight, additional commitment to career and technical education, P-20 focus, at least \$100 million for special-education weights, attention to school safety and mental/behavioral health, relief from the outdated Aggregate Expenditure Limit, updated inflation adjustments for District Additional Assistance and School Facilities Board investment.

Poll after poll and survey after survey suggest that a base-funding in-



crease of \$800 million to \$1 billion settles well with a majority of business and education organizations as well as with the Arizona electorate.

Teachers as represented by the Arizona Education Association, district superintendents, Arizona school boards, Invest in Arizona coalition, Stand for Children, Education Forward Arizona, The Center for the Future of Arizona, Save Our Schools Arizona, urban and rural education advocates, major business groups and, yes, the Arizona Business & Education Coalition seem to be singing from a similar song sheet.

This is a significant moment in education policy advocacy.

A recent survey by Education Forward Arizona shows that 66 percent of voters believe schools are underfunded and a whopping 78 percent believe teacher salaries are too low.

So that's where we are, colleagues, and the hope here is that we do at least two things in these last few critical days of the legislative session.

First, let's speak to the incredible commonality of the vast majority of education and business advocates who have endorsed most or all of Point 1 above and seek to get this incorporated into the budget. This also represents the majority of Arizonans of every polit-

ical persuasion.

Second, let's respect the process. It is easy to throw stones. The process really is not "our" process. It is "their" process, those who have been elected. They set the rules for their conduct, debate and procedures.

Lastly, our state budget surplus would seem to provide for investment in education with some facility. We might ask ourselves why this hasn't happened. When we see the answer to that question, we will see that the solution is 16, 31 and 1 at the state Capitol. And if you don't like it, then it's back to the people after sine die.

And in that process, I have confidence that some combination of advocates will make that happen. Again. And again, if necessary. And again.

I know, this is not very gratifying in terms of some desired outcome, but the real bottom line is that there is a win in this budget surplus for everyone if the narratives can be toned down just a bit, and the facts are permitted to illuminate just which budget best serves the educational needs of Arizona.

16-31-1: That is a combination that opens the lock to education investment.

Dick Foreman is a former TUHSD Governing Board member and long-time Tempe community activist.

Explore city's hidden gems this summer

By Doreen Garlid

Want to know a secret? Tempe has hidden gems all around the city and summer is a great time to go exploring. Think of it as a playcation – with air conditioning.



Doreen Garlid stay tuned.

Even though I live in Tempe and serve on the Council, I'm still surprised by some of the treasures, big and small, in our city. Earlier this year, I started hosting quarterly Backstage Pass events to take residents behind the scenes at some of our amazing facilities. More events are coming, so

In the meantime, I'm sharing some favorite places and activities in Tempe. Take the whole family, plan a date night or hang out with a friend. There's really something for everyone.

Arts and culture

You've probably attended events at Tempe Center

for the Arts, but do you know about the free Gallery at TCA? You'll find unique exhibitions and also free workshops throughout the summer. tempecenterforthearts.com.

Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park is one of Tempe's desert gems and shines the light on the people and events that helped shape Arizona. Don't miss Unframed: A Photo Journey through Navajo and Hopi Nations. arizonahistoricalandsociety.org.

Family fun

You might know about our city pools and popular indoor wave pool, but have you cooled down at our splash play areas? Grab the kids, pack a picnic lunch or dinner and plan to explore all four this summer at Kiwanis, Esquer, Hudson and Jaycee parks. tempe.gov/pools.

Every Wednesday this summer, come to the Tempe History Museum to learn about our amazing Tempe Sister Cities partnership through crafts, stories and games. Kids and families love our free, annual Tempe Time Machine program. tempe.gov/TimeMachine.

Some days it's too hot to do anything but grab a good book. Sign up for the Tempe Public Library's Summer Reading Program (all ages, through August 1). Then find a cozy reading spot at the library or at your home and start earning prizes by reading. My

other tip: visit the library's café for a snack or cool drink. tempepubliclibrary.org.

Shop local

Looking for a fun gift? A bargain book? Something uniquely Arizona? Grab a friend and hit the shops tucked inside our city facilities. The Tempe History Museum, TCA and library's Friends Bookstore have something for everyone.

Getting there

Park the car and take one of our free transit options. Catch an Orbit bus to connect to parks, schools, shopping areas and neighborhoods. If you haven't taken a ride on the new Streetcar, it's a must. Fourteen stops take you to events, restaurants, Mill Avenue and more. tempe.gov/orbit and tempe.gov/streetcar.

Tempe and Guadalupe kids, ages 6 to 18, can sign up for a free Youth Transit Pass and ride the light rail and all local and regional Valley Metro buses for free. tempe.gov/YouthPass.

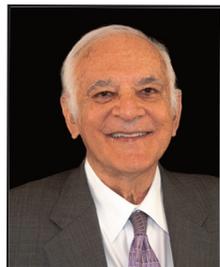
I hope you'll spend time this summer exploring Tempe. Please reach out to me anytime – and share your favorite gems or Backstage Pass ideas – at doreen_garlid@tempe.gov or 480-350-8796.

South Tempe resident Doreen Garlid is a member of Tempe City Council.

'A well regulated Militia; being necessary to the security of a free State; the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.'

By Glynn Gilcrease

This is how the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution reads. Too often, proponents of free-for-all and unregulated spread of assault weapons ignore the first two clauses of the Second Amendment.

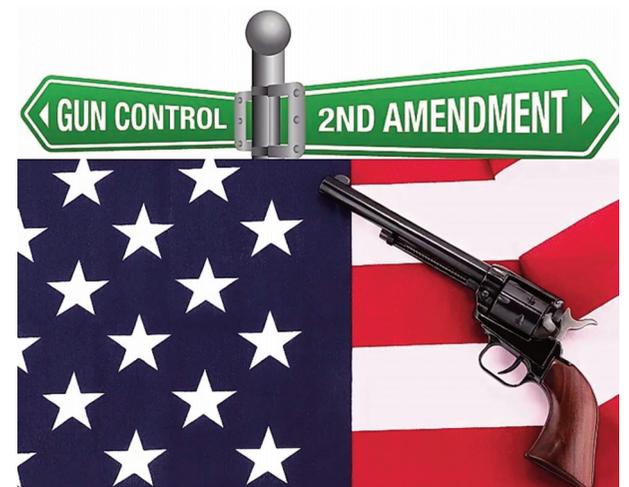


Glynn Gilcrease

There is nothing inconsistent with the Second Amendment and the banning of military type assault weapons, which are now used in the almost daily slaughter of our children throughout the United States.

Well-regulated militias—our sheriffs departments, police departments and military—should be the only carriers of assault weapons, not every crazy person who wants to buy one.

The NRA and manufacturers of military-type assault weapons pay politicians handsomely to do their bidding, spreading the false proposition that the Second Amendment does not permit restrictions on



their sale.

Let's ask our representatives to do the right thing, consistent with the Second Amendment, and ask for legislation to ban the sale and possession of these tools used now for the mass murders of children in our society.

Glynn Gilcrease is a longtime Tempe resident and practicing attorney.



COMMUNITY

Sis, boom...blah: No fireworks, but plenty of other Fourth fun

By Cliff Summerhill
Special for Wrangler News

out to celebrate Independence Day.

Red, White, and Floom: Tempe's Independence Day Celebration

Taking place at Tempe Town Lake a day before the national holiday, this year's family-friendly celebration includes a variety of activities for children, food and beverage vendors, a spectacular music-theme fire show and live music from the Abby and Luke Duo and the '80s cover band Rock Lobster.

"We wanted this July Third event to be different than our traditional July Fourth event," said Jennifer Leon of Tempe's Special Events department. "By doing so, we felt that having it on the day before and doing something unique on Tempe Town Lake wouldn't take away from our traditional July

— FOURTH, Page 12

South Tempe and West Chandler residents won't have to go far to enjoy the Fourth of July.

Both cities have special celebrations planned – some of them beginning July 3.

But the only fireworks likely will be over why there are no fireworks.

Both cities, along with others in the Valley, encountered supply-chain issues obtaining the popular Fourth of July pyrotechnics.

As public gatherings slowly return to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic reduced or entirely wiped out festivities the past two years, the return of both of these community events are bound to be welcomed by those looking to get



Plan your route

Chandler aims to develop streets that are designed to provide safe and efficient movement for a multitude of users (e.g., motorized vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit for all ages and abilities). Sometimes this requires road construction projects. Stay informed by visiting chandleraz.gov/TrafficRestrictions for an interactive map to learn about projects that are currently taking place.



VOTE

HARTKE



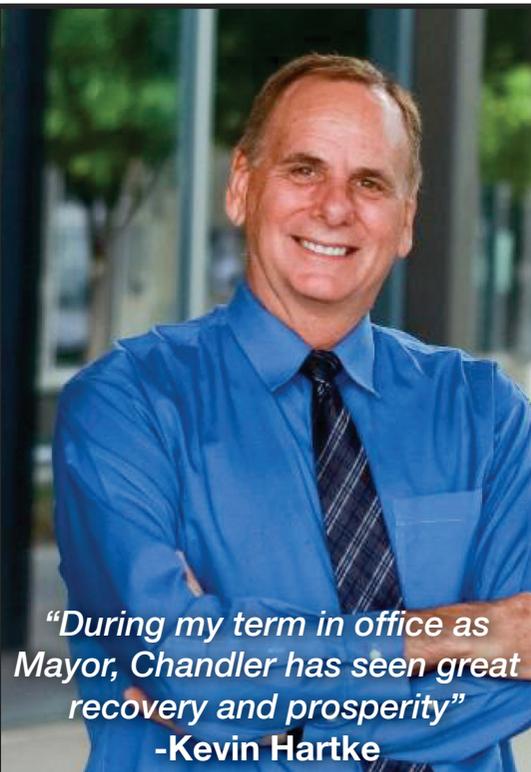
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-Kevin Hartke

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35 YEARS IN HIGH TECH INDUSTRY



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Celebrate Independence Day with live music, activities for kids and a spectacular fire show choreographed to music on Tempe Town Lake.

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fun!

RED WHITE and FLOOM

Tempe's Independence Day Celebration

Sunday, July 3 6 – 10 p.m.
Tempe Beach Park, Mill Ave. & Rio Salado Pkwy

Enjoy live music including 80's cover band, Rock Lobster. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The festival is in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Tempe.

tempe.gov/FamilyFun



Tempe again offering free-ride passes to kids, teens



Need a lift? Tempe and Guadalupe kids, ages 6-18, can sign up for a free Youth Transit Pass and ride the Valley Metro light rail and buses as well as the new Tempe Streetcar for free.

Tempe is issuing passes for the new year valid July 1 through next June 30 at the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth Street, weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., June 25 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Aug. 6 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students who attend Tempe, Marcos de Niza and McClintock high schools and live in Tempe or Guadalupe can get a pass at school.

Download the registration form at tempe.gov/YouthPass.

In 1996, Tempe residents passed a half-cent sales tax for transit operations and improvements. That transit tax funds the free Tempe Youth Transit Pass program.

Fourth

From Page 10

Fourth event that will hopefully come back next year.”

Instead of fireworks, Tempe will host a fire show, consisting of 12 floating, flower-shaped flumes on the lake that will shoot flames as high as 30 feet into the air. The 8:30 p.m. show will be choreographed to patriotic and pop music.

When: July 3, 6-10 p.m.

Where: Tempe Beach Park, 80 W. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe, AZ 85281.

Admission: No charge.

More information: Tempe4th.com.

Chandler's All-American Bash

Since 2003, Chandler has hosted a variety of Independence Day-related showcases, but this year the city welcomes its first All-American Bash.

“This event will provide everyone with a sense of community and pride as we celebrate Independence Day,” said

Hermelinda Llamas, Chandler special-events coordinator.

“That sense of community is an important part of every City of Chandler event.”

This one is in downtown Chandler with live music from Cold Shott and Hurricane Horns, among the Valley's most-popular rhythm-and-blues bands, and other family-friendly activities, including local food vendors, yard games and a raffle with seven gift baskets. Those who attend will be entered into the raffle at no charge and do not have to be present to win.

Instead of fireworks, there will be a five-minute pyrotechnics show during the concert on the stage at about 8:20 p.m.

When: July 4, 7-9:30 p.m.

Where: Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 178 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler, AZ 85225.

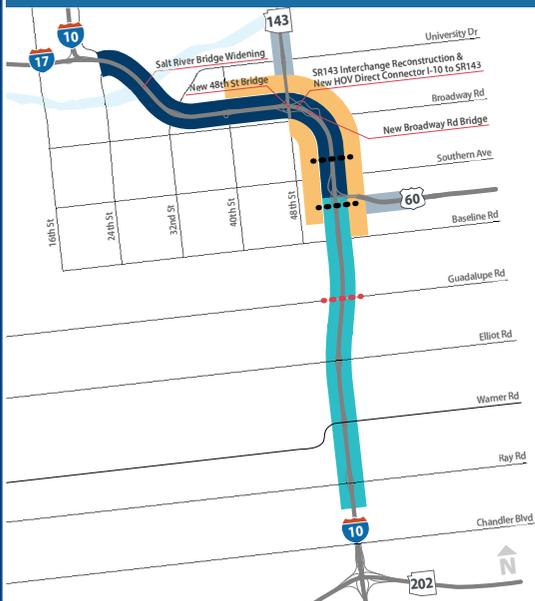
Admission: No charge.

More information: chandleraz.gov/explore/special-events/chandlers-all-american-bash.



Good info is a good thing.

Get the best info about the Broadway Curve Improvement Project and upcoming summer road closures with "The Curve" app. Download to your phone today or visit i10BroadwayCurve.com and #StayAheadOfTheCurve. When complete, the project will improve your commute and help support our growing economy.



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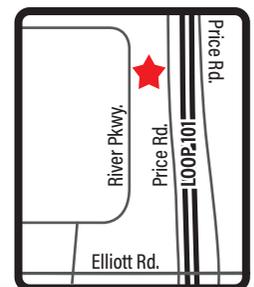


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DIVERSIONS

Splash into summer with these area sizzling staycation specials

Save on room rates, food and beverages, poolside cabanas, entertainment

By Meghann Sepulveda
Special for Wrangler News

Soaring temperatures can mean only one thing: It's time to take advantage of the abundant summer discounts at Southeast Valley resorts.

Metro Phoenix is known worldwide for its array of sprawling, opulent destinations featuring every amenity imaginable. But it's not necessary for South Tempe and West Chandler residents to go to Scottsdale to unwind. They can do it essentially in their backyard.

It's the down season for tourism in the desert, so resorts offer reduced pricing and packages designed to attract local residents to come for a staycation.

Whether you're looking for a family-friendly vacation with the kids, or if you want to book a quick couple's escape, we've compiled five nearby resorts to help you beat the heat.

The Crowne Plaza Phoenix Chandler Golf Resort

Situated in vibrant downtown Chandler next to the historic San Marcos Golf Course, this resort is within walking distance of more than 40 local restaurants and bars, many of which feature live music and daily entertainment. Dive

into the refreshing pool, book a private cabana, or grab a refreshing drink from the outdoor bar. Guests can enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner at the resort's on-site dining options AJ's Restaurant or 1912 Bar and Lounge.

Book the "Playcation Package" for a \$109 room rate and receive a \$25 food credit to be used at AJ's Restaurant, 1912 Bar and Lounge, room service or the pool bar. Promotional rates are based upon availability. Blackouts may apply. Rate is redeemable for stays through Sept. 5.

Learn more and book your stay by calling the hotel at 480-812-0900 or visit bit.ly/ChandlerPlaycation.

Arizona Grand Resort & Spa

Families and couples looking to escape the heat along with the hustle and bustle will enjoy the abundant amenities at the 774 all-suites resort. From the gorgeous scenery to the delicious dining and plenty of recreational activities to keep the kids busy, you'll soak up every corner of the property's 17,000 acres nestled against the South Mountain Preserve.

Voted by the Travel Channel among the country's Top 10 Water Parks, the resort's expansive, wild and fun Oasis Water Park spans 7 acres and boasts huge water slides, giant wave pool, 25-person hot tub, the Valley's only side-by-side active river and Wild Cat Springs, which is perfect for younger children.

Several summer special rates and packages, including the "Advance Pur-



Top photo: The Crown Plaza Phoenix Chandler Golf Resort – often referred to as "The San Marcos," dating to its historical roots, is a splendid and nearby place to get away from it all for a few days with its "Playcation Package." **Above:** One of the best resort water parks in the country – according to the Travel Channel – is right here in our neighborhood, at the sprawling, all-suites Arizona Grand Resort & Spa. The resort is offering special summer rates.

chase Rate," will save you 15 percent on your reservation, and the Resort Credit Package features a daily \$50 resort credit that can be used on dining, spa or

golf.

Learn more and book your stay at arizonagrandresort.com.

Gila River Resorts & Casinos – Wild Horse Pass

Pack your party shoes because there's unlimited fun to be had – day or night – this summer.

The AAA Four Diamond awarded hotel features 446 spacious rooms and suites, eight unique dining experiences, a championship golf course, two pools and gaming – including a new sportsbook – with no resort fees. New this year is the Top Golf Swing Suite, offering several bays, a lounge, food and beverage service, and bar and table-top games.

Guests 21 and older who stay at the hotel on the final Saturday of each month through September will receive two complimentary wrist bands to the Summer Oasis Pool Party hosted by Phoenix Suns basketball player Jae Crowder.

Learn more and book your stay at playatgila.com.

Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass

Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Estrella Mountain Range alongside the Gila River, this beautiful resort pays tribute to the history and culture of the Native American community, featuring authentic architecture, design and art. Tee up at two championship 18-hole golf courses that boast gorgeous desert views, dive into one of four sparkling pools including a 111-foot waterslide, elevate your dining experience at world-class restaurants Kai and Ko'Sin, or pamper yourself with a body wrap, facial or massage at the luxurious Aji Spa. Spacious guest rooms with majestic mountain views and private balconies set the tone for ultimate rest and relaxation.

Through Sept. 5, guests will receive \$100 daily resort credit, complimentary parking and late check-out.

Additional summer savings and seasonal packages are available.

Learn more and book your stay at wildhorsepassresort.com.

The Westin Tempe

This contemporary hotel is in the heart of Tempe's downtown district and near the area's best shopping, dining and entertainment destinations, and it celebrates its first summer with special savings. Blending Tempe's vibrant atmosphere and unique local culture with a focus on well-being, the 18-story property features 290 spacious guest rooms and suites equipped with floor-to-ceiling windows and spa-centric bathrooms. Dine at Terra Tempe Kitchen + Spirits, offering modern-American cuisine, pick up a light lunch at the hotel's quick-service bistro Cup of Joe Market Café or grab a cocktail at the chic Skysill Rooftop Lounge, the Valley's highest open-air rooftop bar and lounge.

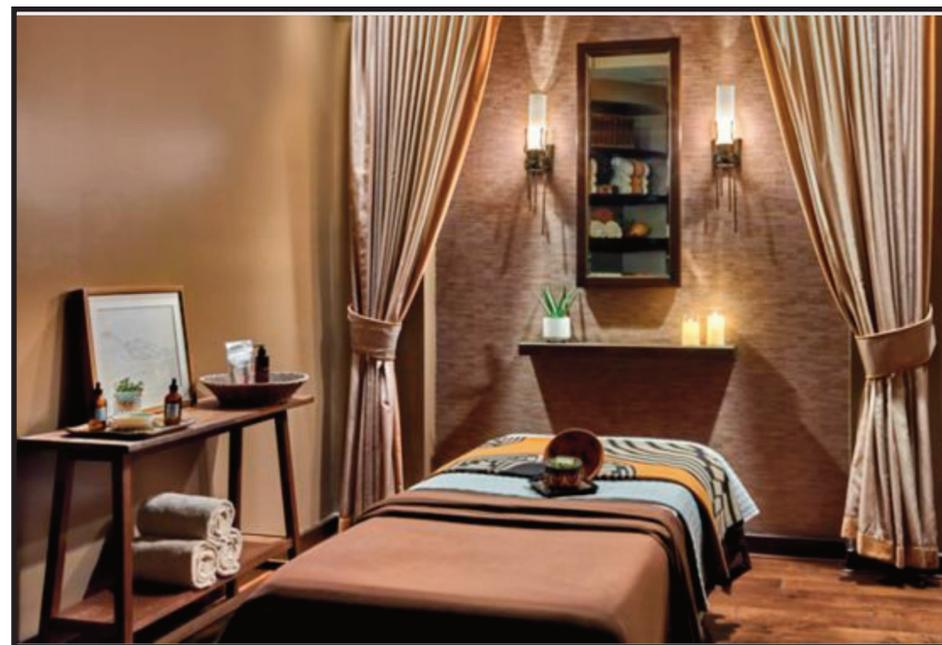
Summer room rates start at \$189 per night. A discount is available for Arizona residents. Book the "Arizona Staycation Package," available through Sept. 30, and get 5 percent off the best available room rates plus a daily \$50 food and beverage credit to be used at any of the hotel's three distinct dining concepts.

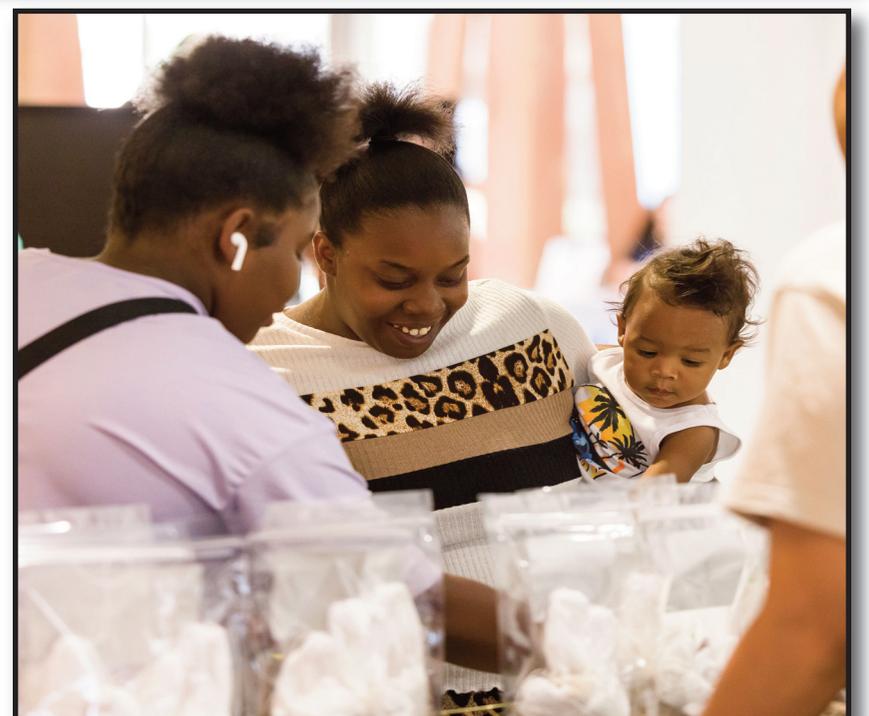
Learn more and book your stay at marriott.com/hotels/travel/phxwt-the-westin-tempe.

Top photo: There are shows, a casino, golf courses and pools – and no resort fee – at Gila River Resorts & Casinos-Wild Horse Pass. A Las Vegas-style sportsbook opened in the past year. And that's to say nothing of an adjacent premium outlet mall.

Center photo: Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, just across Interstate 10 from West Chandler, features highly acclaimed amenities, such as Aji Spa, a Forbes Five-Star therapeutic oasis, and Kai, the only AAA five-diamond restaurant in the Valley.

Bottom photo: Serving up the "Arizona Staycation Package," the new 18-story Westin Tempe downtown welcomes South Tempe and West Chandler guests with summer pricing. It boasts Skysill Rooftop Lounge, the Valley's highest open-air bar.





Perspective of the past, view of the future

A crowd turned out when the Tempe African-American Advisory Committee presented its annual Juneteenth Celebration, “Why We Celebrate: Remembering Our Past and Looking Forward to Our Future.” Among those on hand at the festivities at Tempe History Museum were Tempe Mayor Corey Woods (opposite page, top photo). The goal was to educate the community and celebrate freedom from slavery in the U.S.

The family-friendly event included presentation of scholarships and other awards, musical performances, hands-on activities and performances, table displays, story time and food vendors. Chandler also marked the occasion with its own festivities.

*Photos by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News*



Acknowledged top gun at box office, 'Maverick' nonetheless predictable

By MV Moorhead
Wrangler News Film Critic

When the original *Top Gun* was released in 1986, I quickly came to regard it as an embodiment of everything that was wrong with American pop culture, and maybe of American culture in general.

Setting aside whatever annoyance we can assign to it for turning Tom Cruise into a superstar, *Top Gun's* mindless, swaggering triumphalism and fetishizing of empty recklessness struck me as a symptom, maybe even a partial cause, of a generational toxicity from which we're still suffering.

Three-and-a-half decades later, on the occasion of the very belated sequel *Top Gun: Maverick*, I'm not sure I see any rational basis for revising the opinion of my pompous 24-year-old self, or of attributing a healthier mentality to the new film.

But I will say this: *Top Gun: Maverick* is much more enjoyable than the original.

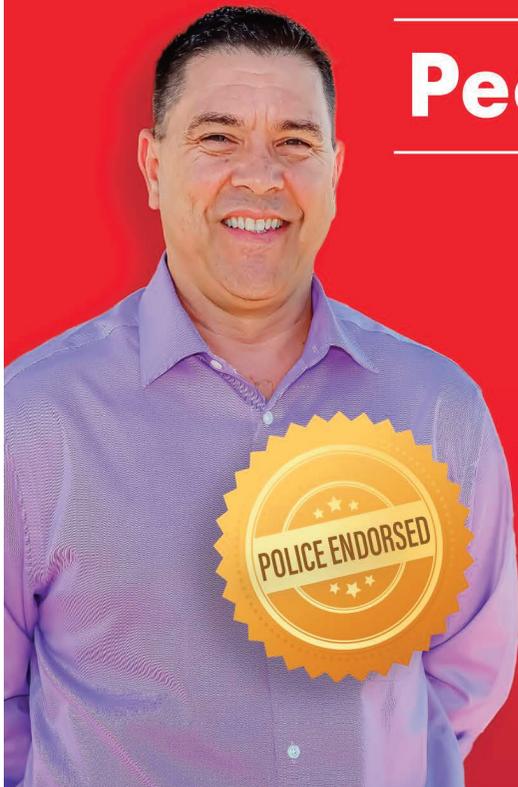
The '86 film has become one of the seminal movie texts of our time, but in case there are a few fortunate souls who remain benighted: It's the story of Navy fighter pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell (Cruise) and his time at the Fighter Weapons School at Miramar near San Diego, known as TOP GUN. Maverick—all the pilots have cute nicknames—is a brilliant flyer but is given to ignoring authority and making his own rules.

In the new film, Maverick is still a Captain after all these years because he's just too darn rebellious to advance. He's still ruffling the feathers of authority figures (huffily played by the likes of Ed Harris and Jon Hamm). He gets called back to the TOP GUN school at the insistence of its commander, his old rival Ice (Val Kilmer, who has one touching scene in the new movie).

Maverick's job this time is to instruct a



The venerable Tom Cruise returns as Capt. Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell in the box-office blockbuster 'Top Gun: Maverick.'



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batch of young officers with cute nicknames—except for one simply called Bob (the endearing Lewis Pullman)—in preparation for a secret bombing run against a uranium-enrichment facility in a judiciously unidentified hostile country.

Among his pupils is Rooster (Miles Teller), son of Maverick's beloved co-pilot Goose (Anthony Edwards), killed during the first film. Rooster bears Maverick a longstanding grudge. There's a bit of love interest, too. Maverick re-meets barkeep Penny (Jennifer Connelly). His previous leading lady, Kelly McGillis, though briefly glimpsed in a flashback, goes unmentioned.

Now, let me be clear: *Top Gun: Maverick* is every bit as insipid and predictable as *Top Gun* the first, and Tom Cruise seems like just as much of pipsqueak.

Cruise can be good, even very good, when he's playing manic and out-of-his-depth, as in *Rain Man*, *A Few Good Men*, *Jerry Maguire* and *Magnolia*, but when he's in hypercompetent man-of-action mode, I've never been able to take him seriously. Even at nearly 60, he still comes across like a boy dressed up in his dad's clothes.

But that doesn't much matter here. Two factors combined to pull the stick out of my butt and allow me to enjoy this movie.

One is that technical filmmaking has advanced exponentially since 1986, and the flight scenes have greater clarity and flamboyance than the original's. It's useless to try to claim that the last 30 or 40 minutes of this movie aren't exciting. It's propulsive and spell-binding, even as you see every plot point coming at

you as plainly as if it was on a radar screen.

The other factor, especially for those of us who were regular moviegoers when the original came out, is simple nostalgia. The director, Joseph Kosinski, really captures the '80s-movie montage-to-montage vibe, starting right at the beginning with brooding synthesizer tones leading into the most irksome (albeit catchy) song of the estimable Kenny Loggins, "Danger Zone," all of it backing up a *full opening credit sequence*, not just a quick flash of the title.

In this way, *Top Gun: Maverick* can be like that odd and common phenomenon of encountering somebody you disliked back in the day, and feeling an unaccountable surge of affection.

— FILM, Page 21



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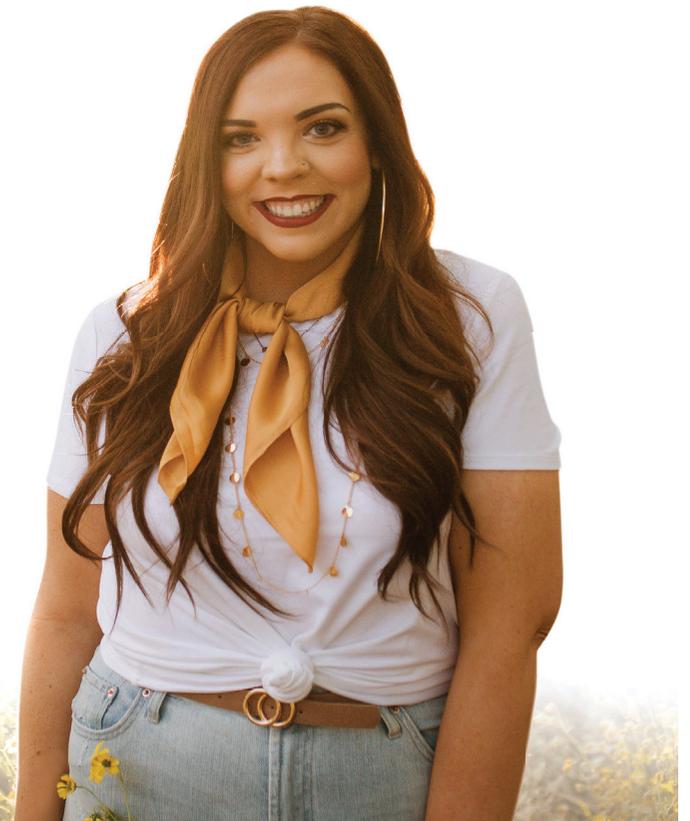
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Film

From Page 19

'The Bob's Burgers Movie' takes on a fighter squadron

Bravely facing off against Cruise's fighter squadron is *The Bob's Burgers Movie*, the story of a family struggling to keep their burger joint going when a huge sinkhole opens in the sidewalk and completely blocks access to their storefront. It's the feature version of an animated Fox TV series.

Bob is Bob Belcher (voiced by H. Jon Benjamin), the depressive dad. His wife, Linda (John Roberts), is more upbeat. They live in the apartment above the restaurant with their kids, boy-crazy oldest daughter, Tina (Dan Mintz); neb-bishy, well-intentioned rock-star wannabe middle son, Gene (Eugene Mirman) and rabbit-ear-wearing, aspirational youngest, Louise (Kristen Schaal). Louise is deeply offended when a girl at school calls her a "baby." To prove this untrue she descends into the sinkhole.

This leads to a mystery involving everyone from the burger joint's rich landlords to carnies from the nearby amusement park. Other characters enter the story, some performed by name actors: Kevin Kline and Zach Galifianakis as the landlords and Gary Cole as a police detective with an inferiority complex.

There are some very peculiar musical numbers, and it all culminates in a suspenseful and action-packed finale.

This movie is funny even if you've never seen the show. I can attest to this, because I've never seen the show, and I thought this movie was funny.

The comedy derives from the Belcher family's flat, affectless manner, contrasted with the convoluted gothic plot and wild action. But there's also a humane warmth to the Belchers that keeps the joke from going sour. If I lived in that town, I'd eat at that place.

Top Gun: Maverick and *The Bob's Burgers Movie* are both rated PG and play at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20, Majestic Tempe 7 and other multiplexes Valley-wide.

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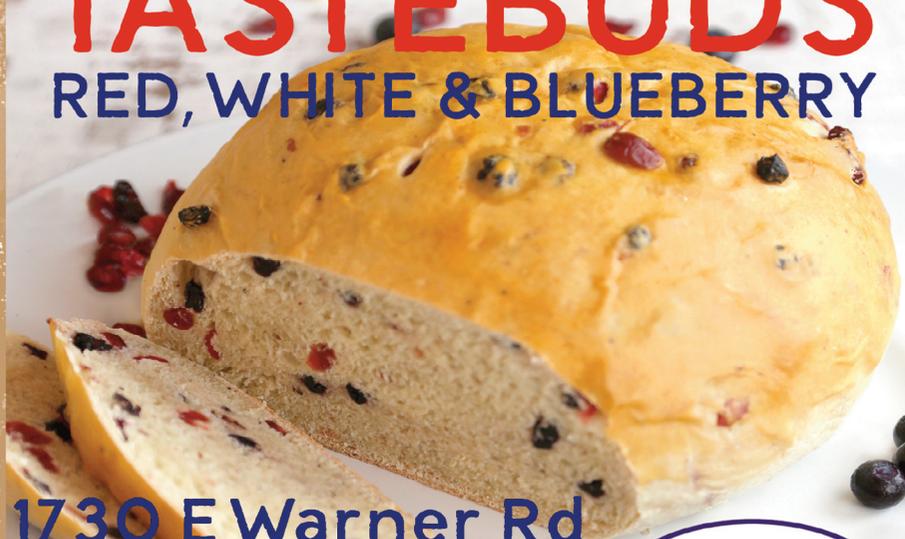
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SPORTS



At 6-foot-7 and 316 pounds, Andrus Peat, a former Pro Bowl guard, is hard to miss in a crowd. But the real stars in the crowd at Corona del Sol High School – where Peat starred before he went on to Stanford and the New Orleans Saints – were the kids who turned out for his recent football camp. Andrus (photo near right) is from a long line of star athletes in his family, including his brother, Cassius (far right), who played at Michigan State after his Corona days.



Photos by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News

Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Corona del Sol girls track squad takes 10th at state

Corona del Sol High's girls track and field team placed 10th with 29 points in the Division I state championships at Mesa Community College.

Ena McMahon, a junior, was the Aztecs' star performer, winning two gold medals and placing fifth in another event. McMahon won the 100-meter hurdles in 14.30 seconds and the pole vault at 12 feet, a half-foot ahead of the runner up. She took fifth in the 100 meters in 12.17.

In the 2022 rankings for Arizona high school track and field athletes, McMahon is ranked No. 1 in DI in the 100-meter hurdles and No. 2 overall with her personal best time of 14.27 on April 13 at the Brophy Fr. Olivier Invitation and Dutch Decathlon.

McMahon is ranked No. 1 in DI and No. 3 overall for her pole vault of 12-2 at the Tempe All-City Championships on April 22.

In addition, McMahon is ranked No. 7 in DI and tied for 10th in the 100 meters with her personal best of 12.15 seconds at the state meet May 14.

McMahon is also ranked No. 8 in the DI long jump with a personal-record 18-1.25 at the Tempe All-City Championships on April 22.

In the 4x100-meter relay, McMahon teamed with **Kendyll Garcia**, **Cassidi O'Connor** and **Allie Alday** to rank ninth in DI with their time of 49.17 at the Tempe All-City Championships.

Garcia, a senior, also placed fourth in the triple jump with a personal-record leap of 37-10.75. That moved her up to No. 5 in DI and No. 6 overall.

Alday, a junior, also threw the javelin a personal-record 98-04 and took 10th place.

O'Connor, a senior, ran a personal-record time of 12.71 and placed 18th.

Sloan Guess, a freshman, took 24th with a time of 12:24.35 in the 3,200, her first state-championship

race. Junior **Kelsey Gunning** took 24th in the 300-meter hurdles in the preliminaries.

Sofia Wyatt, a junior, jumped 16 feet and placed 16th in the long jump and was 24th in the triple jump at 32-01.25.

CDS boys state track and field rankings

The Corona's boys track and field team has nine athletes among the top 10 in the AIA's rankings.

Senior **Brett Wynn**, who won the high jump gold medal at the DI state meet, is No. 1 in not only DI but overall for his 6-8 effort on May 14.

Wynn is No. 5 in DI in two other events, the long jump and the triple jump. His personal-record 22-9.5 in the long jump on March 25 at the Red Mountain Rampage lifts him to No. 5 in DI and No. 13 overall. His 45-6.5 in the triple jump at state puts him No. 5 in DI and No. 6 overall.

Junior **Alexander Lutz** is ranked second in DI and fifth overall for his time of 38.94 in the 300-meter hurdles at the state meet. Lutz also is ranked sixth in DI and 12th overall for his personal-record 14.89 in 110-meter hurdles at state.

Junior **Tyler Tisinger** is No. 5 in DI and No. 7 overall in the 800 with his personal-record 1:53.76 at

state.

Tisinger, along with seniors **Diego Diaz**, **Callum Rohrer** and **Gian Martinez-Richards**, ran the 4x800-meter relay in 8:11.61 on April 8 at the Hohokam Warrior Invitational and landed the No. 10 DI ranking.

The personal-record time of 10.89 by senior **Jaden Shepherd** in the 100 meters at state tied him with two others for No. 10 in DI.

Senior **Jalen Walker's** 53-7 in the shot put at state placed him fourth in DI and 11th overall.

Senior **David Staab's** personal-record discus throw of 155-6 placed him ninth in DI rankings.

Marcos de Niza boys track and field rankings

The Padres have four athletes ranked in the AIA's Division III top 10.

Junior **Jamaal Young** is No. 3 in the 200 meters for his personal-best 22.19 at the state championships. Young also is ranked fourth in the 100 meters for his personal-record 10.98 at state.

The Padres 4x100-meter relay team of Young, senior **Kilimial Minter**, sophomore **Lorenzo Alexander** and sophomore **Tyler Hill** is No. 3 after its 42.69 at state.

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SCHOOLS

W. Chandler's Valley Christian receives \$3M for worship-performing arts center

Valley Christian Schools, whose high school campus is in West Chandler, has received a \$3 million gift, the largest cash donation in the 40-year history of the organization.

The donation is the lead gift in Valley Christian's three-year, \$16 million Impact Fund campaign.

The transformational gift was made by a Legacy Valley Christian family with 10 grandchildren in the private school's system. A Legacy family is one that includes at least two generations of VCS students.

"We are incredibly honored by this generous gift, and we are so grateful to this longtime Trojan family," said Dan Kuiper, VCS Head of School. "Our mission is to equip students to be culture changers for Christ, and this gift will no

doubt play a major role in supporting these efforts. We give God all the glory for the work He has done and continues to do at Valley Christian Schools."

The donor family worked alongside VCS leadership to direct the gift toward building Trinity Theatre at Valley Impact Center, a large gathering space on the school's high school campus that is well-equipped to produce worship and performing-arts events.

Valley Impact Center will serve as the spiritual and worship hub for the school's three campuses, and be used daily for high school academics and regularly for performing arts, staff development, chapels and worship.

This facility also will serve other community and strategic partners.

While this gift will make a substan-



Performing arts is an important element of the curriculum at Valley Christian High. A recent \$3 million gift has been applied to construction of the new Trinity Theatre at Valley Impact Center on the school's high school campus that is equipped to produce performing-arts events.

— Photo courtesy of Valley Christian Schools

tial impact on VCS' efforts, there remains an urgent need for funding, according to VCS. Valley Christian wants to jump-start the permanent home of its elementary and junior high grades — each campus is in Tempe — as well as to expand its high school locker rooms and install a synthetic turf football/soccer field.

This campaign comes on the heels of Phase I Valley Christian's Secure the Fu-

ture Campaign, through which the school made significant upgrades on the high school campus, including a two-story academic building, state-of-the-art Trojan Sports Performance Center and new parking lot.

The first floor of the academic building has been well-equipped for the school's growing STEM programs and is dedicated to longtime Valley Christian teacher, coach and friend, Al Nelson.

Tempe EI, TUHSD to continue free breakfasts and lunches during summer

School's out, but that does not mark an end to free breakfasts and lunches to all students in the Tempe Elementary School District and Tempe Union High School District communities this summer.

The program is not restricted to Tempe Elementary or TUHSD students.

It is open to any child 18 or younger.

Tempe Elementary is serving these nutritious free meals through July 15, 8-9 a.m. for breakfast and 12-1 p.m. for lunch. Food must be consumed onsite.

The sites:
Carminati Elementary, 4001

S. McAllister Ave.; Hudson Elementary, 1325 E. Malibu Drive; Rover Elementary, 1300 E. Watson Drive; and Wood Elementary, 727 W. Cornell Drive.

Contact the Tempe Elementary School District Nutrition Services Department at 480-642-1541 with any questions.

Tempe Union High School District also is providing meals to all children ages 18 and younger without charge and regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age at McClintock High, 1830 E. Del Rio Drive in Tempe.

Breakfast and lunch are 9-11 a.m. Monday-Friday through June 29.



Four Peaks For Teachers gives grants to 12 teachers

Tempe-based Four Peaks Brewery has kicked off its 12th annual Four Peaks For Teachers campaign, during which it is distributing free kits of much-needed school supplies to 10,000 teachers in Arizona and four other southwestern states.

The craft brewery also will award \$1,000 grants to 12 teachers in a contest that is open through June 30 through fourpeaksforteachers.org/nominate.

The grant competition is open to teachers nationwide, even in states where Four Peaks beer is not distributed.

Now, during a national teacher shortage, Four Peaks says it is more committed than ever to providing K-12 educators with the supplies they need to succeed in the classroom.

— GRANTS, Page 27



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Tempe-based Four Peaks Brewery has kicked off its 12th annual Four Peaks For Teachers campaign, during which it is distributing free kits of much-needed school supplies to 10,000 teachers. — Photos courtesy of Four Peaks Brewery



Grants

From Page 25

“We’re very concerned about teacher burnout, both locally and nationally,” Four Peaks co-founder Jim Scussel said.

“Here in Arizona, the number of teachers is at its lowest point since 2004. We all should support teachers in any way we can. One easy way to do that is to nominate an outstanding teacher in our national grant competition.”

Scussel created the program in 2011 to help reduce the financial burden on teachers in the Southwest, many of whom spend hundreds of dollars out of pocket on school supplies each year without reimbursement.

During the campaign, Four Peaks is setting aside a portion of sales of its flagship Kilt Lifter Amber Ale, which largely funds supplies and grants for the Four Peaks For Teachers program. The more Kilt Lifter sold, and the more direct donations made, and the more teachers they can support.

Four Peaks For Teachers is donating essential supplies, such as paper reams, pencils, pen and marker packs, staplers, staples and participating retail coupons.

Customers may make a direct, tax-deductible donation to the program at fourpeaksforteachers.org.

Donations to Four Peaks For Teachers are managed through Four Peaks Charities, a nonprofit 501(c)(3).

Teachers interested in receiving a free school supply kit can visit fourpeaksforteachers.org for details.

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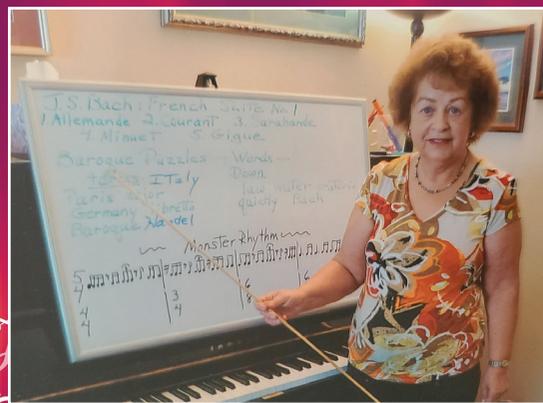
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BUSINESS

Satellite-com provider's massive expansion to ASU Research Park bringing 1,500 jobs

About 1,500 new jobs are coming to South Tempe as Viasat, a satellite communications company based in California, is expanding operations at ASU Research Park.

Viasat announced plans to develop more than 300,000 square feet on 16 acres at the research park, near Loop 101 and Warner Road, in an Arizona

State University "innovation zone," where the land is owned by the university and the office space is leased to private companies.

"We look forward to welcoming more strong local talent to our team," said Melinda Kimbro, chief people officer at Viasat. "There is a vibrant, innovative eco-system in this region, which obviously includes ASU, one of the most innovative schools in the U.S., offering numerous nationally ranked degree programs and one of the largest schools of engineering in the nation.

"Deepening our presence in the community means exciting new career opportunities for those who want to



About 1,500 new jobs are coming to ASU Research Park in South Tempe as satellite communications firm Viasat expands.

— Photo courtesy of Viasat

join us on our journey to connect and deliver opportunity to everyone, everywhere."

Viasat, which provides high-speed satellite broadband services and secure networking systems, already has a smaller presence at ASU Research Park. This new expansion will be in three

phases, the first of 135,000 square feet to break ground this summer south of River Parkway and Viasat's existing campus with a June 2024 scheduled completion, according to Morgan Olsen, chief financial officer of ASU. It will have an outdoor atrium and a parking structure.



Youth and Adult Summer Series

YOUTH RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS



Every Wednesday in June and July 2022 from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. at the Innovation Center there will be a workshop focusing on

toxic stress, coping skills, and resiliency. Building confidence, minimizing anxiety and depression, and developing protective factors against substance use.

ADULT RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS IN ENGLISH



Every Wednesday in June and July 2022 from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at the Innovation Center there will be a workshop focusing on stress

management, resiliency and self-care, and suicide prevention. Building confidence, minimizing anxiety and depression and developing protective factors for substance use.

ADULT RESILIENCY WORKSHOPS IN SPANISH



Every Wednesday in June 2022 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Innovation Center there will be a workshop focusing on

stress management, resiliency and self-care, generational trauma, and suicide prevention. Building confidence, minimizing anxiety and depression and developing protective factors for substance use.

This message was made possible by grant number H79TI083320 from SAMHSA.

LOCATION & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All workshops will be offered at the Innovation Center at 490 W Guadalupe Rd, Tempe, AZ 85283. Registration is not needed to attend workshops.

If you have additional questions, please call: **480-350-8004**.

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

Learn more info about Tempe Coalition by emailing bernadette_collins@tempe.gov



Developer taps Pan Asian connections to revitalize center near W. Chandler

NewQuest Properties, continuing to bring back the once-struggling Chandler Ranch, is finding success bringing new-to-Arizona restaurant and retail brands to the center after infusing \$10 million in capital improvements to boost its effort.

Chandler Ranch is being rebranded as a dining and shopping destination, leaning on NewQuest's longtime relationships in the Pan-Asian retail and restaurant sectors.

The project, at 1760 W. Chandler Blvd. near West Chandler, is anchored by 99 Ranch Market, the California-based grocery chain's first store in Arizona. The majority of the tenant roster also is new to the state.

Permitting and construction are underway for Japanese retailer Daiso (8,260 square feet), Gen Korean BBQ House (5,470), The Kickin' Crab (4,678), 85° C Bakery Café (3,555) and Somi-somi Soft Serve (1,470).

Chandler Ranch, totaling 117,565 square feet, is 97 percent leased, a mile-

stone reached within 30 months of the Houston-based developer's acquisition of the property.

Openings are anticipated to start in the fall and continue through year's end.

"We are grateful to Chandler's economic-development team for helping our tenants, who overwhelmingly are new to Arizona, navigate the process," said Naoyuki Kondo, leasing specialist in Houston-based NewQuest's Asia-Pacific Retail Group. "As a result, construction is running smoothly across the board."

The majority of tenants, though new to Arizona, are well-established West Coast brands.

"It is wonderful to see so many Asian shops and restaurants select the revitalized Chandler Ranch for their first location in our region," Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke said. "I think it is a testament to Chandler's diversity and appreciation for global cultures. These new offerings will provide a welcome

Future phases will include an additional parking, conference area and café.

The ensuing new jobs will be primarily in engineering, especially software engineering, as well as operational and back-office roles, according to Bob Rota, Viasat vice president of facilities and security.

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods said that the city welcomes the expansion

"(Viasat) creates technology that helps shape global communications," Woods said. "Our city is proud to be able to offer the highly educated workforce, the central location and the array of supportive, innovative companies that can help Viasat thrive."

Company officials said its existing

presence at the ASU Research Park, affordable development cost, availability of talent and favorable business climate led them to Tempe after other markets also were evaluated.

According to Olson, ASU Research Park "has been looking for just the right tenant to take the site" in the 320-acre park that is now 98 percent occupied.

"This has been a very popular site," Olson said. "Viasat is a great employer, these are high-quality job opportunities and we are excited about their enhanced level of commitment."

ASU Research Park has 50 corporate tenants that employ more than 6,000, including Amazon, Amkor Technology, Avnet, Edward Jones, Go Daddy, Iridium and PADT.

— CENTER, Page 30

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**Member: Tempe Chamber of Commerce
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Center

From Page 29

taste of home for some of our residents and exciting experiences for many others.”

NewQuest, like its hand-picked tenants, was drawn to Chandler because of its rapidly expanding Asian population, which is now the largest in the state.

The five-mile trade area boasts nearly 307,000 residents, of whom 7.75 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander. The average annual household income is \$104,403.

“Our development has gained national attention because we are attracting so many new brands to

the state,” Kondo said. “We were signing leases throughout COVID. The lease-up has moved more quickly than we anticipated.”

By breathing life into the 14.5-acre property near Loops 101 and 202, NewQuest has created the latest economic catalyst in the high-tech Price Corridor area.

Gone are once-vacant storefronts.

In their place is an eclectic collection of Asian, Mexican, Mediterranean and American restaurants and the promise of becoming a shopping destination after Daiso, which has a cult following, opens.

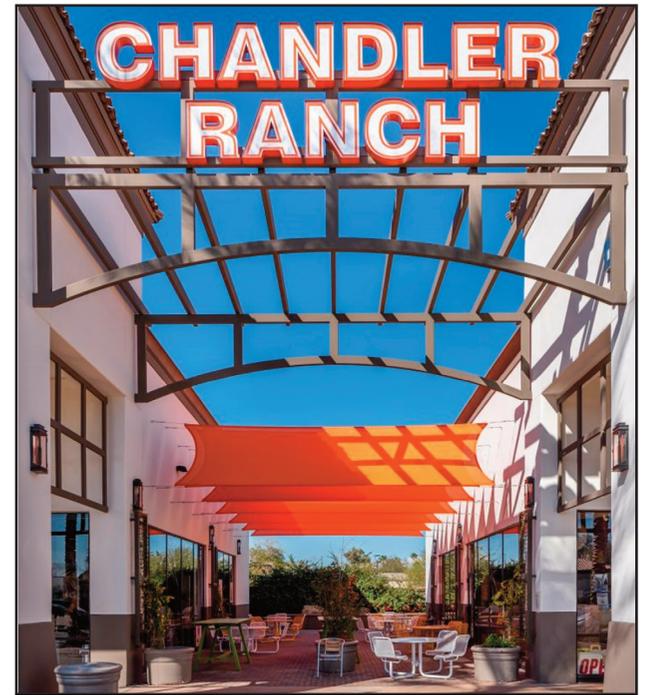
Daiso is a lifestyle value-store concept with an inventory of more than 80,000 Japanese products, in-

cluding kitchenware, snacks and toys. The chain has 6,000 stores worldwide and 83 in the U.S.

“Chandler Ranch appeals to hybrid consumers who appreciate the Asian culture. Our project has drawing power for everyone from dining connoisseurs to niche shoppers,” Kondo said.

Heather Nguyen, development partner and leader of the firm’s Asia-Pacific Retail Group, teams with Kondo on leasing.

NewQuest Properties, founded in 2001, is a privately owned, full-service commercial real estate firm that is headquartered in Houston. Its portfolio encompasses more than 100 retail and mixed-use projects exceeding \$2.3 billion.



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