

**AUG 5-18, 2023**  
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**WRANGLER  
NEWS**



## **AS SCHOOL STARTS, CAMPUS SECURITY STILL A NO. 1 JOB**

Story and photos by Andrew Lwowski, Pgs. 3-4

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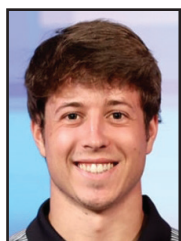
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School security officers are always on the move now that schools are back in session. The ever-changing tools and training are making schools as safe as they have ever been.

## School security 'better prepared than ever' but no cause to overlook diligence



Story & photos by  
Andrew Lwowski

The start of the 2023-24 academic year kicked off on July 19, and students and teachers are back to the grind. And so is Charles Cobbs, the director of district safety and security for Tempe Union High School District.

With the start of every year comes the uncertain possibility of school-related events, but Cobbs, who has nearly 40 years of law enforcement experience in the Arizona Department of Corrections and Arizona Department of Gaming, plus a stint as community affairs specialist for the Tempe Police Department, says the students are in good hands.

Cobbs stepped into his position in 2019, shortly before the start of the pandemic. He entered his role with a vision and a goal. However, that those were quickly moved to the backburner while the world faced an unprecedented health crisis. His sole responsibility became COVID-19 contact

tracing, and it remained that way for two years before schools transitioned back to in-person classes. After navigating the murky waters of the pandemic and returning to what could be called normal, he could then fully commit to safety, the job for which he was hired, he says.

Now on a steadier foundation, Cobbs says he was able to shift gears, being able to complete a thorough evaluation, a study that uncovered a view that existing school security lacked structure. In fact, he said, a number of school security officers felt demeaned and undervalued, leading to high turnover. On top of that, he said, Cobbs found that school security had maybe "eight hours of some kind of training" during the entire school year.

His first order of business was implementing

— Continued on Page 4

extensive training for all TUHSD security, including and with the assistance of Tempe Union Assistant Superintendent Sean McDonald; extending the security calendar from 9 1/2 months to 10; and allowing ample time for a required “65-70 hours” of training prior to the start of classes.

Under Cobbs’ ongoing guidance, that training will be shared with school resource officers and other police agencies in what he describes as an effort to improve the response network.

“I will be honest with you,” Cobbs said. “Once that training was over, they went back to their campuses and I got a lot of calls from principals and administrators that said, ‘Charles, I see the difference in these guys already. They’re ready to go.’”

Additionally, the teachers and administrators, who are surrounded by hundreds of students every day, also receive training for safety, as well as for emergency management.

One of the benefits he enjoys in his role, Cobbs says, is his relationships with sister city agencies such as Tempe, Scottsdale, Mesa, Chandler and Phoenix. Constant communication has led to a fluid, always-changing process of training.

“I talk daily with the Tempe sergeant over the SROs (special resource officers),” he said. “We’re sharing information, and that builds our training.

“He and I have ideas about training that he develops for his SROs that he’s like, ‘Charles, I think this would be good for security too.’ And so that’s the kind of collaboration that we have that helps me and this leadership team ensure that we’re implementing all the proper and appropriate safety measures.”

Although security stretches beyond physically protecting students and staff on campus, attention is also focused on illegal substances and online behavior, which Cobbs says is from which a “significant” amount of problems arise.

“(Social media) tends to be where a lot of our issues (originate) and cause of a lot of things, especially online threats,” he said. “Over the summertime, over a break, there could be some stuff brewing on social media.

“Then eventually, once everybody gets back to

the campus, it blows up.”

## The complexities of high school

High school is a complex time in many students’ lives as outside influences, such as social media and illegal substances, tend to make an appearance.

Nearly every student has access to or is on social media, which can lead to an array of bad choices if not monitored carefully, according to Cobbs.

Fortunately, there is a team for that: A community engagement and mitigation unit monitor online activity and keep up-to-date with anything involving the safety and well-being of students and staff.

However, Cobbs says the parents—he himself is a grandparent—also share responsibility.

“We (as parents) have to be more involved with monitoring what our kids are putting out and really having these really serious discussions about the consequences of you posted something.

We encourage our parents to really have these discussions with their kids to check their social medias, and I know that that causes friction. But it’s for their safety. It’s for the safety of every one and within our school community.”

Cobbs applauded both Tempe and Phoenix police for being so successful in their efforts in monitoring online activity as well as substance awareness.

“This year we brought a trainer from the liquor department to talk about liquor abuse, what to look for,” he added. “We do drug training, drug identification training, we do de-escalation for these guys. We do report writing for these guys and girls. So, there’s just a list of things that we are brought in to help train them. Because if they’re not training, competent, if not capable of giving them the resources to do their jobs, that we shouldn’t expect much more.”

Cobbs covers all the bases when thinking about total protection of our community’s youth, even during sporting events. For every event, every location, an emergency action plan is created and must be approved by him and is shared with Tempe fire and police. This includes emergency routes, head counts of on-duty and off-duty policemen as well as security.

*The following email was sent to Corona del Sol parents on Friday, July 28. It is one of many examples of the measures being taken in TUHSD schools to inform parents of incidents that occur during the school day.*

Corona del Sol Families,

This afternoon, one of our students brought a toy version of a firearm that was stored in the student vehicle. Another student displayed the toy gun in the southwest corner of the Rural Road student parking lot at dismissal. No students or staff members were threatened. It was quickly brought to our attention, and we were able to take proper action. We understand there is a heightened sense of awareness regarding school safety and would like to take this opportunity to remind you that keeping students and staff safe is our number one priority. Any item that has the appearance of a weapon, even a toy, should not be brought to campus for any reason. Please talk to your student about making good choices.

Should you have any questions concerning today’s incident, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Nathan Kleve, Principal*

Football season kicks off the athletic calendar and is a major draw in attendance, but Cobbs says there is a plan in place for everything. “(Tempe police and fire) are going to set up their own ICS system,” Cobbs said. “They’re going to take control of everything. Our responsibility is to make sure that parents get united back with their children safely.”

Cobbs, who is also a grandfather, takes his position to heart and works with a passion to ensure a safe environment across the Tempe Union district.

“We’re going to do the best we can to keep kids and staff safe,” Cobbs said confidently.

“Whether that’s me being at a sporting event for that day or whether that’s on a campus during school hours. We’re continually learning and changing. I don’t want to say I’m comfortable where we are because I can never get comfortable, but I can say that we’re better prepared than ever.”

# Mega scientific enterprise coming to Tempe's ASU Research Park

For those who enjoy taking an occasional scenic shortcut between Elliot and Warner roads, it's unlikely most haven't wondered what's going on inside those concrete hideaways along both sides of the roadway.

No one is covering up anything, of course. It's just that there's a lot of focus on what's happening in the area of research and development—in most cases outside the realm of our newspaper's typical coverage and beyond the likelihood we'd understand it even if we knew.

Not so much the MacroTechnology Works building at ASU Research Park, the focal point of business pursuits along both sides of River Parkway.

Now, however, thanks to Arizona State University and Applied Materials, Inc., an alliance, aided by the Arizona Commerce Authority, has revealed that it brings more than \$270 million to create a world-class shared research, development and prototyping facility, the Materials-to-Fab Center, in the university's MacroTechnology Works building at ASU Research Park

The MTF Center will be designed to accelerate the transfer of innovations from ideation to fab prototype by bringing Applied Materials' state-of-

the-art semiconductor manufacturing equipment into a collaborative environment where ASU and Applied Materials can work with industry partners, startups, government entities and academic institutions. The MTF Center will provide students and faculty with opportunities for hands-on learning and research on the same 300mm equipment used in leading-edge production fabs.

Applied Materials is the world's largest provider of semiconductor manufacturing equipment. The company in May announced plans to build the Equipment and Process Innovation and Commercialization (EPIC) Center in California's Silicon Valley.

The EPIC Center is planned as the heart of a high-velocity innovation platform that includes a network of hubs at leading universities, each focused on materials and process innovation. The new MTF Center at ASU will be home to Applied's Center of Excellence in materials deposition technology.

"Applied Materials and Arizona State University already enjoy a close partnership and this new alliance around the Materials to Fab Center will take things to a new level," said ASU President

Michael Crow. "But what is more important than the partnership is what it will do for the industry and the country. This is the beginning of a reconfiguration of the way to accelerate discovery and translational research outcomes in response to real world challenges and the development of next-generational processes, materials, equipment, and workforce."

"Applied Materials is excited to build upon our successful track record of collaboration with Arizona State University by adding the Materials-to-Fab Center to our university innovation network," said Applied Materials President and CEO Gary Dickerson.

"Applied envisions the center at ASU playing a key role in accelerating materials engineering innovations, commercializing academic research and strengthening the pipeline of future semiconductor industry talent."

Design of the center has already begun, and the new lab is expected to be operational within two years. The project is supported by investments of \$30 million from the Arizona Commerce Authority, \$17 million from ASU, and \$25 million in Arizona New Economy Initiative funding and bonds.

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## Diversity, success highlight Tempe Chamber awards

The pursuit of diversity coupled with an appreciation of individuality and its ability to drive success were behind the Tempe Chamber of Commerce's selection of the financial services firm Achieve for major recognition at this year's awards ceremony.

Achieve, formerly Freedom Financial, was recognized for supporting employee resource groups committed to diversity and inclusion, including through networking, education and volunteerism.

The event also included crowning of the 2023 Business Woman of the Year, a recognition established by the chamber in 1996 to recognize an outstanding businesswoman in the community who demonstrates leadership, excellence and community involvement in the course of her business activities.

Angela Johnson of FABRIC and the AZ Apparel Foundation was this year's recipient.



Johnson

Johnson was said to have been transforming the business of fashion in Tempe and Arizona for many years. An award-winning designer herself, her passion has been tied to fashion but her vocation is mentoring young designers to create in an innovative, tech-driven, responsible and sustainable fashion industry for the 21st century.

Furthermore, said chamber planners, it was noteworthy to the selection committee that during COVID Johnson's team produced over 600,000 reusable medical gowns for healthcare facilities.

It was also revealed that on behalf of the Arizona Coyotes, five underserved businesses received scholarships for their first year of Tempe Chamber membership. Recipients included Mise En Scene Events; Mya Kai; New Tech Outreach Services; Pals Packs; and Queen of Design.



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## Coffee hangout: Place to unwind from day of chaos

By Nicole Mitchell

One of the most endearing benefits of working at a neighborhood coffee shop is the opportunity to cultivate a sense of belonging within a community. As one of the those who can claim—and revel in—the joy of such a connection, I am the familiar face behind the counter, a vital entity within the local coffee shop culture, one able to forge connections with occasional drop-ins and those indomitable “regulars.”

This is a place to simply find a moment of respite from the chaos of daily life, both for customers and myself alike.

Take Steve's Espresso, for example. Steve's is a nearly 20-year-old coffee spot at McClintock and Baseline in South Tempe—not only my place of employment but my coffee hangout of choice.

Steve's was opened in 2004 and has since established a cult-like following of supportive and obviously dedicated customers. Upon stepping through its unassuming entrance, one is transported into a realm where the mundane becomes the extraordinary, something more than just a coffee shop—a portal into a world where individualism thrives, where connections are made, and where life can slow down for a while.

This is what a coffee shop should be: sanctuary for the mind. In an era of sprawling corporate chains and fast-paced modernity, there is something undeniably comforting about the vibrant hubs that anchor communities in a way no corporate chain could replicate.

These local coffee respites like Steve's are catalysts for social interaction and serve as gathering places where individuals from all walks of life can come together, fostering a sense of community that is increasingly rare in our digitally driven world. Establishments

like these offer some breathing room from the isolating screens that dominate our lives, providing an environment that hosts face-to-face conversation and genuine human connection.

Whether it's the regulars who gather for their ritual cup of coffee, or the chance encounters among strangers who strike up conversations over shared tables, coffee shops like this create a sense of relaxed comfort and belonging.

Local coffee shops, it should be said, also are vital in supporting the local economy. By choosing to patronize such establishments, community members invest in their neighborhoods and contribute to the sustainability of small businesses.

Unlike corporate chains that siphon profits out of the community, local coffee shops typically source their beans from local roasters and suppliers, further bolstering the area economy.

Thus, supporting local coffee shops supports the livelihoods of not just the owners but the corps of baristas, bakers and small-scale coffee growers whose income is derived from such enterprises, helping to advance the cycle of economic growth within the community.

Local coffee shops, simply said, serve as windows into the unique character and culture of a community.

From the eclectic decor to the carefully curated playlists, local coffee shops like Steve's offer a glimpse into the soul of a neighborhood. They become landmarks, woven into the fabric of the community's identity. For residents and visitors alike, these establishments serve as welcoming ambassadors, inviting them to experience the essence of a place through its coffee and its people.

In a world where efficiency and convenience often overshadow the value of human connection, local coffee shops are essential bastions of community and culture.

They nourish the spirit, ignite creativity and foster a sense of belonging. These humble places remind us of the importance of slowing down, engaging with our fellow humans, and embracing our communities.

*Nicole Mitchell is a barista and aspiring columnist on the human condition.*



Nicole Mitchell spares a rare idle moment to share her experiences, observations at Steve's Espresso, where she works as a barista. —Wrangler News photo by Riley Gay



## MCC expands construction trades studies

Calls to the construction trades program at Mesa Community College seem to have given added momentum to requests for enrollment beginning this coming fall.

Plumbing courses will be offered in fall 2023; HVAC in spring 2024; and masonry and solar in summer 2024—all at the Southern and Dobson campus.

David Cain, MCC construction trades director, said annualizing the program will help meet an increasing need for skilled trade workers.

“We have contractors, suppliers and vendors calling weekly looking to hire our students,” Cain said.

“The construction trades program spaces will be expanding in our parking lot to the east of the Applied Science and Technology Building.

The plan is to have a fenced area that has three non-brick and mortar buildings that are assembled with

shipping containers and Quonset structures that allow MCC to hold classes outside in the building environment.

“It is our goal and mission to deliver qualified skilled trades workers to meet the growing demand in the greater Phoenix metropolitan area.”

A certificate of completion can be completed in two semesters.

Students begin with an eight-week online course covering construction safety, hand- and power tools, calculations and blueprint reading. The last eight weeks consist of hands-on training in a lab, based on the chosen area of specialization.

The 30-credit program is set up to offer day and evening classes and flexible teaching modalities including in-person, online-only, live online and hybrid.

## Meet Your City Staff

### Open House & Pie Social



City Manager Rosa Inchausti, Deputy City Manager Keith Burke, Deputy City Manager Tom Duensing, Interim Deputy City Manager Greg Ruiz

**Tuesday, Aug. 22 4 to 6 p.m.**

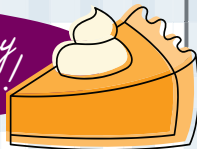
*5 p.m. - Remarks from City Manager Rosa Inchausti*

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★ 2023 Best Communities for Music Education Award



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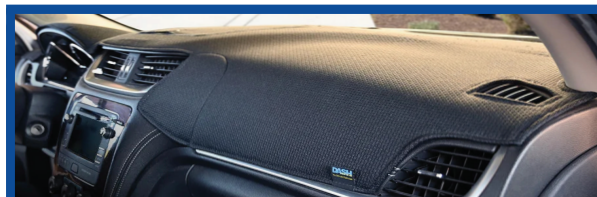
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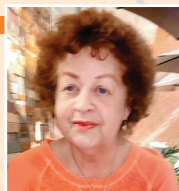
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## Empowering tomorrow's leaders: Girl Scout patch program

Kick-off event on Aug. 12  
at Tempe History Museum

### Commentary by Doreen Garlid

The City of Tempe has long been a champion of empowering its young residents to become future leaders and active community members. Among its many initiatives to engage youth, Tempe has now collaborated with the Girl Scouts of Arizona Cactus-Pine Council to create a unique and inspiring program—the City of Tempe Girl Scout Patch. This innovative patch encourages girls to explore their community and develop a deep sense of civic responsibility.

The City of Tempe Girl Scout Patch is designed to provide girls with a comprehensive understanding of our city, its history and the various elements that make it thrive. By participating, Girl Scouts embark on a journey of exploration that encompasses various aspects of community life, encouraging them to actively participate in Tempe's future.

An essential aspect of this Girl Scout patch is fostering civic responsibility and encouraging active engagement in local government. Girls can participate in city council meetings and learn about the decision-making processes that shape their community.

The four main areas of the Tempe Girl Scout Patch include History, Government, Community and Sustainability. The Girl Scouts must complete at least one activity in each of these areas:

- The first section delves into the rich history of Tempe. By immersing themselves in the heritage of Tempe, the girls develop a sense of pride and appreciation for our city's unique identity.
- Understanding the mechanisms of local governance is crucial for young citizens, and the second area of the patch focuses on this aspect. Through communicating with the Mayor or a Councilmember, or listening to a Tempe City Council meeting, the girls witness firsthand how decisions are made and how policies are shaped to benefit the community.
- A strong sense of community defines the City of Tempe, and appropriately it is the heart of the Tempe Girl Scout Patch. This third area of the patch, Community, emphasizes the importance of being active and responsible members of their community, fostering empathy and a desire to make a positive impact.
- Tempe is also renowned for its commitment to environmental sustainability. In this final area of focus, Girl Scouts delve into environmental issues and explore

ways they can contribute to a greener future. They engage in activities that promote recycling, conservation and environmental stewardship.

The City of Tempe Girl Scout Patch is more than just a badge; it is an experience that empowers girls to become confident, empathetic and proactive leaders. By earning this distinction, these girls will be well on their way to being positive change-makers, wherever they live.

Girl Scouting was an important part of my life—both as a Girl Scout myself, and perhaps even more rewarding, as a Girl Scout leader for many years. It's important to nurture the leaders of tomorrow. I'm very proud that the City of Tempe is demonstrating our commitment to these future leaders through this collaboration. It is a testament to our belief in the potential of every young girl to make a lasting impact on her community and beyond.

If you'd like to celebrate this exciting moment, please join us for the Tempe Girl Scout Patch Kick-Off on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave. There will be refreshments and Girl Scouts can start earning the Tempe patch at the event, with a guided tour of the museum! RSVP at [tempe.gov/patch](https://tempe.gov/patch). As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or ideas about Tempe at [doreen\\_garlid@tempe.gov](mailto:doreen_garlid@tempe.gov).

— Doreen Garlid is a member of the  
Tempe City Council.

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## Growth of business community envisioned with appointment of new Chamber VP

Carly Wakefield, a former policy adviser at the Arizona State Senate and director of state relations at Dorn Policy Group, has been named vice president of workforce development and government relations at the Chandler Chamber of Commerce.



Wakefield's new role is said to be aimed at furthering a development program to identify the hiring, training, and workforce needs of the Chandler business community and to align such needs with the chamber's educational partners, employers and employees.

Terri Kimble, chamber president/CEO, praised adoption of the program and expressed optimism

about what can be accomplished.

"We are very excited about Wakefield joining our team," said Kimble.

"With her expertise and experience, we are confident in her ability to advocate for policies and develop programs that continue to build a supportive business ecosystem."

Warde Nichols, chamber board chair and executive director of the Office of Government and Community Engagement at Arizona State University, was likewise enthusiastic.

"This newly created position will further our mission of supporting the Chandler business community by advocating for government policy and providing workforce development programs," Nichols said.

Wakefield received her Masters of Science in Political Science with a focus in International Relations from the University of Nebraska Omaha.

## Like what you see in Wrangler News?

Think you'd enjoy being part of our team? We're always on the lookout for friendly, energetic people who might want to add their writing or photo talent to what we do. Call or email us to talk about how you might fit into this family of happy folks who love what we do. We look forward to hearing from you.

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# We're going daily (well, sort of); but still check your driveway

Commentary by Don Kirkland, publisher

Recent reports of the Santa Barbara, Calif., News-Press eliminating its entire newsroom staff and filing for bankruptcy is just one more sad piece of evidence that daily newspapers are facing what one could say, using a small understatement at best, an uncertain future.

Which brings us to a column we published several issues ago asking Wrangler News readers to weigh in on whether this same widespread decline should prompt us to more assertively consider the possibility of expanding our role in news coverage.

In a rather wide response to that question, it appears that most people think we're doing just fine, thank you, by following the same general approach we've had since our first edition in 1991.

That is, by telling stories that help reinforce the sense of community we're proud to be part of and by pursuing the type of reporting that appears in publications typically described as "good news" newspapers.



So where do we fall in the range of journalistic styles, from The New York Times to the Podunk Herald? My guesstimate, the result of hearing reactions to our question from both sides of the discussion is, well, nowhere.

We started with a community-centric approach and now, 30-some years later, we're still following it. And don't plan to change.

We don't sensationalize but we don't ignore important news. We try to make sure that every story we publish involves someone or something that our readers can identify with: people, schools, businesses, churches, places they're familiar with.

That's been our mission since Day One, and it will continue to be that way as far into the future as we can look.

## Online expansion

That doesn't mean, however, that we don't ponder ways to provide useful, current information while at the same time maintaining the same

look and feel of our paper we've always had. The way we're doing this is by working to improve the content and timeliness of our *wranglernews.com* website. Now, each weekday as you view the site under a top-of-the-page banner declaring Today's Update, you'll find a direct link to whatever story we've posted, one that our staff has determined will be of the widest interest for that day.

Maybe it's a high school sports story; maybe an interview with a unique individual in our town; maybe an action taken by a public board or body. Whatever it is, we want in a modest way to take on some of the responsibilities that the large and small dailies have always assumed, but without the same number of reporters or the same depth of coverage. It's a major undertaking but one we hope will give you at least a glimpse of what is now missing in the big dailies. We'd also like to encourage you to be involved in suggesting stories that you feel can interest you and your neighbors.

So when you think you may have discovered something that might fit our new *Today's Update* category, just email [editor@wranglernews.com](mailto:editor@wranglernews.com) and provide a phone number where we can reach you, if needed, for more details. Of course it won't be a replacement for the familiar daily newspaper but we hope it will give you just one more reason to visit Wrangler News online.

We know this is where the future is taking us. Please be assured, finally, that we're not ready just yet to give up the familiar driveway delivery you've come to expect and appreciate.

We'll keep you in the loop as we march into a new era of local-news reporting, providing insight as we go into the changes we make that we hope will be a product that can be better than ever.



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**Founder/Publisher:** Don Kirkland

**Associate Publisher:** Ty Tabat

**Content Coordinator:** Andrew Lwowski

**Contributors:** Janie Magruder, Alex Zener,  
M.V. Moorhead

**Offices:** Warner Century Plaza  
2145 E. Warner Road,  
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# SPORTS



With outside temperatures still eclipsing 110 degrees, coach Anthony Figueroa has his boys conditioning and weight-lifting indoors in order to prepare for the upcoming season.

## Padres seeking redemption

**Story & photos by Andrew Lwowski**

The Marcos de Niza Padres registered a historic season in 2022, going 9-2 overall with an undefeated record over the 4A Desert Sky region. However, their season came to an unfortunate ending in the first round of the playoffs to Thunderbird of Phoenix.

The Padres are returning key veteran players,

such as quarterback Braesen Leon and defensive captain Jamari Johnson, who played running back in 2022.

While the off season for others may have been a time to decompress and go on vacation, it was strictly business for both Braesen and Johnson.

“It’s been all football,” Braesen said. “Even when I did go out of state it was for football camps and

stuff like that. This year I’m making sure I do all the right things so I can go have a great senior season.”

Part of Braesen’s grind has been to pack of weight and get stronger, which he says he has gained roughly 10 pounds from last season.

The goal is to redeem last season’s failures and win 14 games, as coach Anthony Figueroa says,

which includes the state championship.

Braesen's veteran leadership qualities will play a major role in this year's squad with many key position players having graduated. But, nonetheless, he says the roster should be great and is excited to kick the season off in less than a month.

On the defensive side of the ball, Jamari Johnson is looking to make a splash in his final season, and it starts with chemistry – an element that made the Padres 2022 team so special.

“Outside of training we have to get together as a brotherhood because that's what they (last year's team) were,” Johnson said.

The chemistry built outside the gridiron will be a major factor in what the 2023 team can accomplish. But that still doesn't diminish the grind, he says.

“It's senior year, we all just locked in,” Johnson said. “It was all just football and grinding. I just want to play ball and make it to the next level.”

And of course, expectations remain the same with all eyes focused on the playoffs and ultimately hoisting the 4A state title.



Senior defensive captain Jamari Johnson (top image) and senior quarterback Braesen Leon (bottom) were all smiles among their teammates during preseason workouts and conditioning and skill position drills.



## SPORTS NOTEBOOK with Alex Zener

### Former Aztec pair advance after signing with Phoenix Suns

**T**wo Corona alumni, **Saben Lee** and **Hunter Haas**, are getting a shot to be successful at the next level.

It looks like the pair will be in the Valley of the Sun for a bit longer after signing a two-way contract with the Suns on July 13.

Lee, who graduated from Corona in 2017, played at Vanderbilt for three years as the Commodores' starting point guard. There, as a junior, he averaged almost 19 points, over three rebounds, four assists and 1.5 steals per game before declaring for the 2020 NBA draft.

The Utah Jazz first selected Lee as their 38th pick in the 2020 draft but almost immediately traded him to the Detroit Pistons.

From there he bounced around the NBA, playing for the Pistons, Phoenix Suns, Toronto Raptors and Philadelphia 76ers before coming back to Phoenix.

Lee was waived by the 76ers last November before signing a 10-day contract with the Suns on Jan. 11, followed by a two-way contract on Feb. 1.

At 6-foot-2 and 183 pounds, the 24-year-old point guard made quite an impression in the 23 games he played for the Suns at the end of the 2022-23 regular season.

He averaged 6.3 points, 2.8 assists and 2.0 rebounds in a little less than 16 minutes per game.

Lee's best game was the last game of the regular season on April 9 against the LA Clippers when he had his second double-double, scoring a career high 25 points along with 10 assists.

The way the Suns are moving players in and out, let's hope Lee gets to stick around his hometown for a while.

Former Corona baseball player and alumni Haas was selected by the Tampa Bay Rays in the 2023 MLB Draft on July 10 as the 120th pick in the fourth round.

The value for his slot is estimated to be worth \$552,500—that is if he chooses to sign with the AL East franchise.

Haas, who graduated from Corona in 2020,

played two seasons at ASU before transferring to Texas A&M, where he played infield, usually at shortstop or third baseman for the Aggies.

He had a stellar junior season where, as the leadoff batter, he scored 61 runs on 81 hits for a 0.323 batting average. Haas batted in 46 RBIs, hit a total of 10 home runs and ended the season with a .506 slugging percentage.

On defense, Haas started all 64 games, in which he put out 70 batters while committing only six errors for a .974 fielding percentage, or 97.4 per cent of the time where he appropriately handled a batted or thrown ball.

### Marcos de Niza softball

The Padres, who finished the regular season with a 12-7 overall record, honored six seniors during their last regular season home game in this spring of this year. These senior players included **Isabella Trujillo**, **Myreah Uriarte**, **Carina Matuz**, **Pyper Hatch**, **Rachell Rusell** and **Jazmin Treto**.

Trujillo played in all 18 games for the Padres at third base. At bat, she led the team in RBIs at 18, and was second on the team in triples and stolen bases.

Trujillo had the third highest batting average at 0.327 behind freshman **Leila Rodriguez** at 0.431 with junior **Daisy Reyes** at 0.381.

She was also third behind Reyes and Rodriguez in on-base percentage and in slugging percentage. Rodriguez led the team with an outstanding 0.723 slugging percentage.

Trujillo scored 16 runs during the season to place third on the team behind Rodriguez with 25 scored runs and freshman **Dakota Dunn** with 17 runs.

Uriarte was the starting pitcher in four games during the regular season. She was credited with winning three out of the four games. In addition, she was credited with one perfect game, one shutout, one no-hitter and one save while pitching three complete games.

Altogether, Uriarte made seven appearances on the pitching mound where she pitched in 26 innings. Uriarte struck out 21 batters in those appearances and ended the season with a 3.50 earned run average, or ERA.

Matuz played in 17 of the 18 games during the

regular season. She scored six runs on five hits and had six RBI's while at bat 21 times.

Hatch played in the outfield in 16 games for the Padres. At bat, she had a batting average of 0.326 and is credited with 15 hits, nine runs and 12 RBI's.

Rusell saw action in 10 games at first base for the Padres while Treto was a utility player.

The Padres had a young team this past spring with only three juniors, Reyes, **Sophia Jimenez** and **Cassandra Medina**, to go along with their six seniors.

Reyes, who played first base in 14 games on defense. At bat, she led the team in on-base percentage with 0.480. She was second on the team in batting average, 0.381 and in slugging percentage, 0.428.

Jimenez played in 17 of the 18 games at third base. While at bat she scored seven runs on 12 hits with nine RBI's.

Medina scored 13 runs on four hits while at bat in the 17 games where she played either outfielder or first base.

The Padres included three outstanding freshman, Rodriguez, Dunn and **Altagracia Wix** and three sophomores, **Sophia Franco**, **Charlotte Brandt** and **Ariana Del Rio**.

Rodriguez started 14 of the 18 games at pitcher for the Padres and was credited with nine wins. She made a total of 15 appearances on the pitching mound for a total of 87 innings.

Dunn played in all 18 games during the regular season at second base.

Of the 50 times she was at bat, Dunn scored 17 runs on 15 hits with 12 RBI's.

Wix also played in all 18 games at catcher. She scored eight runs on 14 hits with eight RBIs when at bat 48 times during the season.

Franco, who can play a number of positions including catcher, third base or first base, saw action in 18 games where, at bat, she scored 14 runs on 15 hits with 12 RBIs.

Brandt, a utility player, scored five runs on three hits with five RBIs ending the season with a 0.429 batting average while Del Rio, also a utility player, was at bat two times in one game where she scored two runs.



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# Chandler's Sean Duggan will retire in January

## Search for successor to go nationwide

Chandler Police Chief Sean Duggan has announced plans to retire in January, concluding a 37-year career in law enforcement.

“Chief Duggan has created a culture of service, engagement and trust that has resulted in outstanding community support and historically low levels of serious crime in Chandler,” said City Manager Josh Wright.

“I appreciate his leadership of the Chandler Police Department, employing practices that enabled Chandler to remain one of the nation’s safest cities.”

Duggan has served as Chandler’s police chief since January 2014 and is the most senior police chief among Valley cities. He served the city of Scottsdale for 27 years before leading the Chandler Police Department. Since 2021, Duggan has served as vice president at-large for the International Association of the Chiefs of Police and currently serves on its executive board.

“I am immensely proud that even amid a rapidly changing landscape, the Chandler Police Department is thriving,” said Duggan. “Our culture of earning support and trust by serving our community in a fair and equitable manner is the cornerstone of our system of policing.

“The future of our department is bright with talented people dedicated to upholding the highest standards of performance, while meeting challenges of 21st century policing.”

The department is recognized regionally and nationally as a modern, transparent law enforcement agency, continuously maintaining accreditation status for excellence in policing since 1996.

In the months ahead, Chandler will conduct a national recruitment to replace Duggan. Per the Chandler City Charter approved by voters, the police chief is a position hired by the city manager.



Chief Sean Duggan during interview with Wrangler News contributor Jonathan Coronel.

—Wrangler News file photos

## Chief unveils plans, hopes for PD's future

By Jonathan Coronel

*Editor's note: The son of former Wrangler News Editor Joyce Coronel contributed this piece during his days as a freelancer in 2018, prior to his commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, with which he is now stationed in Okinawa.*

Although studies show that Chandler is getting safer, the city’s police chief knows that his officers go into their community each day on streets that seemingly are more challenging, more unpredictable—more dangerous.

And while overall crime rates are down, the Chandler Police Department, with Sean Duggan at its helm, is in the process of constructing a new state-of-the-art training center to help prepare officers for the challenges they face, both now and in the future.

Located at 3500 S. Dobson Road, the new facility is in fact an add-on to the Chandler Fire Department’s already-existing

training center. According to Chief Duggan, this was an ideal situation for the city since the police and fire departments will be able to share some of the facilities like the auditoriums, classrooms and weight room.

The plan for the new facility is divided into two phases. Phase one, which is under way right now, includes these shared spaces as well as offices for training and support staff at the center. Duggan says that this phase will be completed at the end of June.

In phase two, a new firing range will be constructed starting in October.

As to how this new facility



Duggan shared his ideas about how citizens can play a role in helping to reduce crime.

will help his officers improve their skills amidst a changing landscape of criminal threats, Duggan was clear that although the overall crime rate is down in Chandler, officers still have to prepare for unique threats that have become more common nationwide recently, such as the mass shootings in the past year in Florida and Las Vegas.

“Just a few years ago, it was unimaginable to think that police officers would be engaged by snipers and active shooters. It’s just a relatively new phenomenon.”

Another advantage of the new, centralized facility is that it will help the Chandler Police Department attract high-level outside training to keep the officers up to date in the latest policing tactics—training Chief Duggan says Chandler will be happy to share with other Arizona police departments.

“If we brought in an instructor on a particular topic, whether it’s accident reconstruction or crisis intervention training, we would have the space to accommodate not just our folks but others as well.”

While the firing range will be ideal for training officers to respond tactically to active shooter and even sniper situations, Chief Duggan is quick to clarify that this is just one component of a holistic approach to training, another one being training in de-escalation and responding adequately to threats based on variables such as mental health.

While the latest training is important for police officers, Chief Duggan says that citizens play a crucial role in reducing crime, particularly when it comes to property crime and domestic violence.

As far as property crime, Chandler has seen a net decrease. Since most residential burglaries are unforced, Chandler police have spent the past year

emphasizing to residents the importance of taking the most basic of precautions like locking their doors and closing their garages, an effort Chief Duggan credits with reducing property crimes.

While overall crime is down in Chandler by 3.8 percent, he says, there has been an increase in aggravated assault, 30 percent of which is driven by domestic violence cases. While more complex and serious than property crime, Duggan is confident that through utilization of community outreach and education, Chandler can make victims feel more assured when reporting these crimes so that the police can respond accordingly.

“There’s no community immune to domestic violence. We just want to make sure that victims are comfortable and confident that when they do come forward and report that we are going to provide them with assistance.”



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## DIVERSIONS with M.V. Moorhead

### 'Oppenheimer' lends dimension to post-bomb Los Alamos era

The biopic *Oppenheimer* splits time the way its hero splits the atom. Narrative is fissionable to writer-director Christopher Nolan; he skips back and forth between episodes of *Oppenheimer* (Cillian Murphy) as a bumbling student, then as a philandering rising star in the new field of quantum physics, then as the determined yet haunted lord of Los Alamos, then as a post-bomb martyr to '50s-era red-baiting.

It glides along smoothly through its fractured scheme, beautifully shot by Hoyt van Hoytema in black and white and varying muted shades of color depending on period and point of view, and pushed along by a solemn Philip Glass-esque score by Ludwig Goransson.

Often crowned by a horizontal wide-brimmed preacher-style hat that makes him look like Brad



MV Moorhead

Dourif in *Wise Blood*, Murphy uncannily captures the bursting, wide-eyed, near-ecstatic face that we see in photos of *Oppenheimer*.

But he manages to give the performance a human dimension, with everyday foibles and touches of humor. He's not a pageant figure.

Murphy carries a star presence. But he's very ably supported by a huge, colorful gallery of star character players:

Robert Downey Jr. as AEC Chairman Lewis Strauss and Josh Hartnett as Ernest Lawrence and Benny Safdie as Edward Teller and Tom Conti as Albert Einstein and David Krumholtz as Isidore

Rabi, *Oppenheimer's* menschy colleague who makes sure he eats and nudges his conscience, and Matthew Modine and Casey Affleck and Kenneth Branagh and Rami Malek and Alden Ehrenreich, to name only a few.

They're all entertaining, but two in particular jolt the movie to life: Florence Pugh as *Oppenheimer's* joyless lover Jean Tatlock and Matt Damon as the practical-minded, professionally unimpressed Leslie Groves, representing us laypeople in his deadpan, flummoxed scenes with Murphy.

For a while it seems like Emily Blunt is underserved as Kitty *Oppenheimer*, but near the end she gets a juicy, angry scene opposite AEC lawyer Roger Robb (Jason Clarke), who has underestimated her.

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Other than maybe a few too many scenes of the young “Oppie” having visions that look like the psychedelic mindtrip at the end of 2001, there was no point where I found Oppenheimer less than absorbing. Few would suggest that this ambitious, superbly acted, superbly crafted film isn’t a major, compelling work, a vast expansion on Roland Joffe’s watchable but modest Fat Man and Little Boy from 1989.

If Nolan’s film isn’t quite completely satisfying, there could be two reasons.

One is that trying to arrive at a moral conclusion about this movie’s hero seems impossible.

Put (too) simply: on the one hand, Oppenheimer won World War II for the good guys and checked fascism (not checkmated it, alas) for more than half a century. On the other hand, his invention killed hundreds of thousands of people, and has the potential to ruin the world for everybody.

Both can be true, and the ambiguity is unresolvable.

Another problem with the film, however, is a matter of simple showmanship. Back in 1994, James Cameron brought his silly action picture True Lies to a point where Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis kiss while, far in the distance, we see a mushroom cloud erupt on the horizon. Triumphant, but then Cameron pushed his luck, piling on one last struggle with the villain in Harrier jet.

I remember thinking (and writing) at the time that when your hero and heroine kiss in front of a mushroom cloud, the movie is over.

Oppenheimer, obviously a very different movie, is uneasily structured in the same way. The scenes leading up to the Trinity Test at White Sands in 1945 are riveting, pulse pounding. The explosion and the immediate aftermath, ending the war in Japan, is a stunning dramatic climax.

But then the movie keeps going, for another hour or so, detailing the war of spite and will between Strauss and Oppenheimer, and the revocation of Oppenheimer’s security clearance.

It’s interesting and provocative material in itself, but it seems a little petty and trivial after the “I am become death; destroyer of worlds” stuff.

Given Nolan’s supposed consummate skill at scrambling sequence, couldn’t he have somehow structured the movie to end with a bang and not a whimper?

*Oppenheimer is Rated R and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20, Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.*

## Coming Up at Tempe Center for the Arts

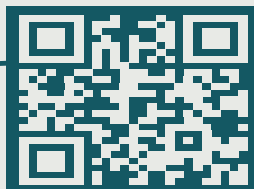


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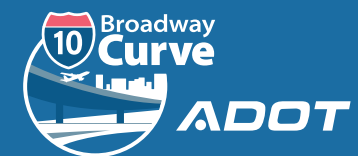
It's Christmas in August. A happy reminder that triple digits won't be with us forever

George Walston, manager at South Tempe's Great Harvest Bakery, thought it might be a great time to bring out—and blow up—the shop's traditional Christmas display as a reminder that these temperatures will, in just a few months, fade into memory.



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# Supporting local businesses, neighborhoods key to thriving city

Commentary by Angel Encinas

As many of us celebrated Independence Day with family, friends and loved ones, it was hard not to think about the dedicated service workers and front-line employees who went to work instead.

Those employees, and the companies that employ them, need our support, not only on July 4th, but every day, especially during the summer months.

My family owns a small business, which means I know first-hand how important community support can be.

The service and retail industries get hit the hardest during the off-season, which is why it is so important to shop and eat local now.

I'd like to invite you to explore all Chandler has to offer this summer, from unique cuisine to shopping to a variety of local entertainment venues. Keeping your dollars here in Chandler helps ensure that all those businesses will still be around for next year's celebrations.

Just as small businesses are the lifeblood of the local economy, so are neighborhoods to our community.

We must invest in them. My family has been in Chandler for decades and it is these roots – the connection among neighbors – that that make our city so special. But it doesn't happen magically – residents need to come together to bring this type of community to life.

There are so many tools and resources available through the City of Chandler that can help residents make those connections in their neighborhoods.

I'd like to encourage you to explore them. First, stay informed of all City offerings by making sure your neighborhood is registered as part of Chandler's Neighborhood Registration program. All you have to do is fill out a form at [chandleraz.gov/neighborhoods](http://chandleraz.gov/neighborhoods).

Another good way to bring neighbors together is through the Neighborhood Grant Program, which will open soon for Fiscal Year 2023-24. Every year the City awards thousands of dollars in grant

funding for variety of neighborhood and HOA projects that promote things like neighborhood safety, clean-ups or beautification (to name just a few).

And of course, I'd like to see every neighborhood in Chandler host a G.A.I.N event this September. G.A.I.N. brings Chandler police officers and other City resources right to your neighborhood parties to help strengthen a sense of community.

[Chandleraz.gov/gain](http://Chandleraz.gov/gain) has all the info you need to get started.

As a member of the City Council, I am always eager to hear from residents, HOA representatives and local businesses.

In fact, we need to hear from you in order to help your neighborhoods.

There is always an open line of communication available and it's as easy as an email to [mayorandcouncil@chandleraz.gov](mailto:mayorandcouncil@chandleraz.gov).

Your feedback, suggestions and insights are so important to the work we do as your elected officials.




Have a great summer.

— Angel Encinas is a member of the Chandler City Council

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