



# WRANGLER NEWS

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Gary McKay, owner of McKay's True Value hardware, is among area small-business owners feeling effects of supply-chain issues. PAGE 3



International Baccalaureate Education Conference honors Kyrene Middle School's homegrown mariachi program. PAGE 5



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## Light up the night: Tempe's parade brightens our holiday



There's something about a parade, especially one with sparkling lights, that captures the imagination of children. View Billy Hardiman's photo essay capturing the Tempe Fantasy of Lights Parade, Pages 16-17.

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## Small businesses weathering holiday supply shortages

By Andrew Lwowski and Lee Shappell  
Wrangler News

If there's nothing in the Christmas stocking this year, it doesn't necessarily mean that somebody has vaulted atop the Naughty List.

Disruption of the supply chain is more likely the problem. Goods are in short supply. It is difficult to find things – even that lump of coal to put in the stocking of somebody who truly has been a stinker.

Reports have circulated for weeks that the bulk of this country's Christmas is sitting on ships off the coast of California due to backups in the harbor because there are not enough truck drivers to haul products

to warehouses or stores.

It's a problem that seems to have hit the big chains harder than the mom-and-pops, but several South Tempe and West Chandler small businesses report that they, too, are feeling the backlash.

Artificial Christmas trees, food and restaurant supplies, anything with computer chips – especially automobiles, sporting goods, even turkeys are in particularly short supply. And there's the dreaded return of emptying shelves of toilet paper and other paper products.

Most fingers point to the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to factory shutdowns around the world. As the pandemic eased, many people simply chose to walk away from their jobs.

From factories in Asia to the heartland of the U.S., production and shipping have been reduced drastically. Many shelves are empty.

— SUPPLY, Page 13



Tempe and West Chandler small businesses have felt the effects of the worldwide supply-chain disruption. Here, McKay's True Value in West Chandler faces empty shelves of electrical supplies.

— Photo by Andrew Lwowski for Wrangler News

## Tempe bans discrimination vs. hair

Tempe has expanded its Anti-Discrimination Ordinance by incorporating the CROWN Act into it.

The CROWN Act, which stands for "Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair," prohibits race-based hair discrimination, which includes the denial of employment and educational opportunities because of hair texture or protective hairstyles, such as braids, locs, twists and knots, in the workplace and in public schools.

"The unanimous Council approval of the CROWN Act is a testament that our anti-discrimination ordinance is a living, breathing set of codes that

will continue to expand and change as we progress as a community," Tempe Mayor Corey Woods said. "I'm thankful and proud of our community members who have brought this to our attention."

Woods and Councilmember Jennifer Adams began working on the CROWN Act over the summer. They moved it to committee in August.

Tempe's African American Advisory Committee and Human Relations Commission recommended that the CROWN Act become part of Tempe's ordinance. Until Nov. 9, when Tempe City Council incorporated the protections during its regular

— DISCRIMINATION, Page 27

## TUHSD backtracks on eliminating SROs

Facing widespread public criticism of its plan to eliminate school resource officers from its campuses, the Tempe Union High School District Governing Board on Nov. 18 unanimously retracted its October resolution to do away with them.

All six district principals opposed the move, as did five former Governing Board members, who wrote a full-page opinion piece in Wrangler News. Many parents, students and the Tempe Police Department also opposed it, especially since the district had laid out no alternate plans for how it planned to keep campuses safe.

Instead, the Governing Board plans to spend the next year taking a deeper look at SROs and campus safety by

bringing more voices into the discussion. The board had not reached out to any great degree to parents, students, teachers and community stakeholders before initially voting to do away with SROs.

The resolution to back off and further study campus safety has no timetable for coming to a recommendation. In October, Governing Board president Brian Garcia and board members Armando Montero and Sarah James voted in favor of eliminating SROs. Board members Berdette Hodge and Andres Barraza voted against the resolution.

The resolution did have some public support, including those who spoke about the presence of uniformed armed officers being a threat and therefore detrimental to students' comfort and learning. Two speakers who said they represent the Party for Socialism and Liberation also spoke in favor.

# GRAND RE-OPENING

DECEMBER 10, 2021



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# KMS mariachi program earns international acclaim



Kyrene Middle School's mariachi program receives International Baccalaureate Education Conference recognition for its performance seen by about 2,000 attendees from 85 countries.

At Kyrene Middle School, the world is a stage, and talented music students are its players.

The school's mariachi program has received 2021 International Baccalaureate Education Conference recognition for its virtual performance seen by about 2,000 attendees from 85 countries.

The class was unable to meet in person last school year, resulting in practices and performances going virtual. Students recorded themselves playing their instruments from home, and mariachi teacher Julio Contreras edited the videos to create music magic.

One performance was so memorable, it was noted, that coordinator Kathie Cigich submitted the video to the conference, one of just a few selected worldwide.



"The International Baccalaureate program teaches students how to think globally through different cultural experiences," Cigich said. "Mariachi music is a cultural experience and a great example of how KMS brings the IB philosophy to life."

Contreras, who has been teaching at KMS for six years, said he hopes to expand the mariachi program to include a style of music known as Tex Mex, or Tejano.

"I hope when other IB school leaders see and experience mariachi music they consider introducing it to their students wherever they are in the world."

Tempe, in partnership with Kyrene, has provided grant funding for the purchase of instruments and uniforms to support the class. Contreras also has received an additional grant from the city through its Arts in Education program, which he says he'll use to purchase accordions.



**Randy Goff**  
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## Pollack Cinemas due to reopen Dec. 10 after \$1M remake; same low ticket prices

After more than a year and a half of being closed, Valley real estate entrepreneur Michael Pollack has announced the re-opening of Pollack Tempe Cinemas on Friday, Dec. 10, starting at noon.

Located at the corner of McClintock Drive and Elliot Road in Tempe, it has been called the best discount theater in the country.

A community staple and resource, the theater continues to offer movie-goers entertainment value with an admission price of \$3.50 for every show, Friday-Sunday—the days they will be open. Out of an abundance of caution, the theater remained closed for more than a year and half during the pandemic.

During that time, the theater underwent an extensive million-dollar renovation.

Said Pollack:

"You will notice the changes from the moment you pull into the parking lot. It has been one of the most anticipated re-openings from 2020, and I can assure you it will have been worth the wait.

"We realize the hardship that the country has faced during the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore we will remain committed to our motto to never sacrifice quality for price. The renovations included upgrades to its snack bar, all six theaters and lobby area, as well as upgrading every theater to reclining black leather-like seating, black and red theater drapery, carpeting, aisle lighting, contemporary touch-free bathroom remodel, self-service ticket kiosk, online ticketing with reserved seating, and "surprises to enlighten and entertain every movie-goer's experience."

The exterior of the building was also remodeled to include a large clock between the new marquees, along with updated landscaping, new pavement in the parking lot, and a 35-foot flagpole.

The reopening comes at a perfect



—Wrangler News file photo

time for those trying to recover from recent pandemic confinement and economic worries.

"Families struggling from the effects of the pandemic are now trying to find inexpensive entertainment for their families and we are thrilled to be able to offer affordable entertainment to spread some holiday joy this season," said Pollack.

"I am very proud of this project and we have worked very hard to bring back the classic theater of yesterday combined with an extremely modern touch that has never been seen before at a neighborhood cinema." Among movies slated to run for opening weekend are *Fast and Furious 9*, *Cruella*, *Addams Family 2*, *Free Guy*, *Dear Evan Hansen* as well as a holiday movie and the classic *Elf*.

Crews at the center have also been busy hanging holiday lights for its seasonal outdoor light display. The holiday lights in the center will be on through Jan. 3.

Information: [www.pollacktempecinemas.com](http://www.pollacktempecinemas.com)

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## Octogenarian Vietnam veteran brings 3 generations of family to 5K for health awareness

By Meghann Sepulveda  
Special for wranglernews.com

**E**ast Valley resident Robert Shook was lost after the love of his life, his wife Anne, passed. They had been married for 62 years. His health was becoming compromised. A year ago, his cardiologist instructed him to start exercising.

“At first I wasn’t able to walk a short distance around the block in my neighborhood,” Shook said. “But I was determined to be stronger so I could get my life back.”

Every day, he walked. Shook’s grandson, Connor, gave him a Garmin watch to track his mileage.

“I walk about three miles a day,” Shook said. “Sometimes, I walk six.”

During the summer months, Shook walked at midnight when it was cooler.

For years, Shook’s daughter Diane, her son Connor, and his wife Kendra, had participated in the Veteran’s Day

5K at Tempe Kiwanis Park, which donates a portion of its proceeds to Team Red, White & Blue, a nonprofit organization forging America’s leading health and wellness community for veterans.

This year, Diane, Connor and Kendra surprisingly had one more generation of family join them.

Shook completed the 3.1 miles with gratitude for overcoming his physical challenges and becoming a healthier version of himself at 82. He also was thankful for the opportunity to pay tribute to his fallen military comrades.

After 53 years, it’s still hard for Shook to talk about friends he lost in Vietnam. He vividly remembers when those seven soldiers died in combat.

“Exercise not only improved my health, but it also helped my grief process,” he said.

During his 22-years of military service, Shook was required to

— VETERAN, Page 12



Three generations of Robert Shook’s family took part in the Veteran’s Day 5K at Kiwanis Park to heighten good-health awareness. From left: grandson Connor Tucker, 27; Kendra Tucker, 27; Shook, 82, and daughter Diane Shook, 62. – Photo courtesy of StartLine Racing

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# Avoid blues by staying out of red when holiday shopping

By Alison Bailin Batz

Special for wranglernews.com

Opening mountains of gifts on Christmas morning and then sitting down for a big family meal are beloved holiday traditions.

But for many, the real annual tradition takes place during the early days of December: Shopping, shopping and more shopping. For some, too much shopping.



Scott Aitken

Tempe investment advisers predict another robust spending spree this season, which might be great for retailers but might not always be the best thing for buyers.

“In 2020, the National Retail Federation reported holiday spending grew an unexpectedly high 8.3 percent over the same period

in 2019 to \$789.4 billion, exceeding the holiday forecast despite the economic challenges of the coronavirus pandemic,” said Scott Aitken, an

independent investment advisor at Wilde Wealth Management Group in Tempe. “All signs point to numbers staying high this year, with stores continuing aggressive incentives coupled by Americans wanting to enjoy the holidays this year more than ever.”



Anthony Williams

But is the resulting debt really worth it?

“Unfortunately, it isn’t until after the New Year, when the credit-card bill arrives, that feelings of regret result,” said Anthony C. Williams, investment advisor representative at Mosaic Financial Associates in Tempe.

So, how can you avoid suffering from a debt hangover after New Year’s Day?

## Build a budget – using real math

“Create a budget and stick with it,” Aitken said.



“Before you start spending, do a little math and figure out how much you can afford.”

A general rule of thumb is the “1.5 rule.”

“Don’t spend more than 1.5 percent of your total gross income on holiday-related expenses. If you’re already in debt, consider spending less than one percent,” Aitken said.

## Be creative – and picky

Not all gift recipients are created equal.

“Don’t stress about spending a ton of money on every single person in your life,” Williams said.

“Start by making a list of people who might enjoy something homemade, rather than store bought, in fact.”

For those people – who might include co-workers, old friends or distant relatives – get creative with your family and bake them cookies or bring them a home-cooked meal.

## Sweat the small stuff – and plan for it

Sure, there are people for whom you want to make the holiday extra special with extravagant gifts. Just don’t forget all the “other stuff” that goes along with those gifts.

“People often forget to budget for special

wrapping paper, elaborate cards or even cute stocking stuffers they buy on a whim for those they love,” Williams said. “Those little extras can add up to hundreds – even thousands – of extra dollars, not to mention the bottle of wine here or hostess gift there bought to bring to holiday parties every weekend.”

Williams recommends making a list of all holiday-related parties, open houses and even work functions, – and including all expenses involved with each to the overarching holiday-spending budget.

## Cash before credit

Simply put, don’t spend money you don’t have.

“And if you can’t trust yourself, why not avoid unnecessary and impulsive purchases by leaving the credit cards at home when shopping?” Aitken said. “Then, you are disciplining yourself to truly only use cash or a debit card, even on an impulse buy.”

## Just say no – to store-branded credit cards

Similarly, resist the temptation to sign up for store credit cards.

“The low introductory interest rates may seem enticing, but that rate will expire—and sooner than you think,” Williams said.

# Redesigned McKemy Academy now an International Baccalaureate school

Wrangler News staff

The wait is over. The recently rebuilt McKemy Academy of International Studies in Tempe was unveiled in a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony for students, parents, staff and community.

The rebuild was made possible by Tempe Elementary School District voters, who authorized a 2016 bond.

“Thanks to the deep generosity of our taxpayers, we are honored and thrilled that generations of McKemy students will be able to experience this innovative, creative and engaging learning environment,” said Dr. James Driscoll, Tempe Elementary School District superintendent.

“McKemy Academy of International Studies will be a critical learning hub for the community where learning knows no boundaries.”

With International Baccalaureate status, the academic focus centers on problem solving and project-based learning, and the new campus design celebrates the program with flexibility to grow. DLR Group’s design blurs the boundary of indoor and



The academic focus of McKemy Academy of International Studies in Tempe centers on problem solving and project-based learning, and the new campus design celebrates the program with flexibility to grow.

—Tempe Elementary School District photo

outdoor learning environments and promotes group collaboration and independent learning.

Each classroom area opens onto shaded outdoor space, which extends the project-based learning possibilities. Locating the library central to the campus showcases it as both a physical and metaphorical core to the IB program and the

campus.

The new cafeteria features a full stage appropriately sized for middle school students, including drapery, fixed rigging, lighting and a green room.

“DLR Group designed the new school buildings

— MCKEMY, Page 12



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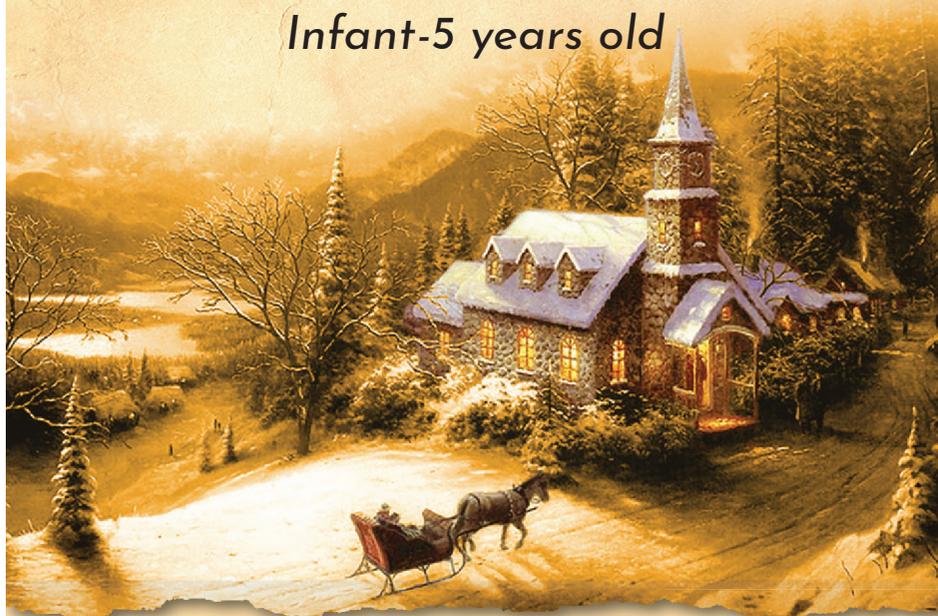
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## Mckemy

From Page 11

as single-story structures to allow them to fit seamlessly into the surrounding residential neighborhood context,” said Katrina Leach, DLR Group senior associate. “Students who walk and bike to campus are welcomed by a new entry that secures the campus and defines the academy’s identity as a specialized program.”

The rebuild, which includes two new buildings and renovations to three existing buildings, was funded through the voter-approved bond referendum in November 2016.

Concord General Contracting served as the construction manager at risk on the project.

“Concord is proud to team with DLR Group and Tempe Elementary School District to be a part of building a facility that represents one

of the strongest Middle Years IB programs in Arizona,” said Grenee Celuch, Concord General Contracting CEO. “In a year where classroom learning took place both in person and virtually, our team worked hard to be able to carry out our contractors in the classroom learning throughout the year, learning about architectural design and construction and constantly ensuring students and staff saw construction progress during remote learning.”

Tempe Elementary has 23 elementary, middle, K-8, and specialty schools serving approximately 12,000 students. It has 16 Title I schools that offer support programs to families, such as free and reduced lunch, outstanding preschool opportunities, a specialty Montessori school, exceptional K-5 experiences in excellent schools and a plethora of learning environments for middle school students.

*More information:*  
[tempeschools.org](http://tempeschools.org)

## Veteran

From Page 8

maintain a healthy physique. It wasn’t until later in life that he fully understood the health benefits of exercise.

“Exercise was an important function for my job in the military,” he said. “Now I know that I need to do it for myself.”

Shook had enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1956 and served as a B-52 bomber mechanic. Ten years later, he joined the U.S. Army and attended flight school, eventually becoming a helicopter inspector.

During the Vietnam War, he completed two tours of duty and was among the last 3,000 troops to leave the country in 1973.

He retired five years later, in 1978, and then continued a career in the

aviation industry.

“I worked at Falcon Field Airport in Mesa with the design and inspection teams for the development of the Apache helicopter,” Shook said. “I also spent time at the Lufthansa Aviation Training facility in Goodyear and in Oklahoma as an FAA aircraft accident investigator.”

His whirlwind career took him around the country with 29 moves, but he eventually retired and settled back in Arizona in 2014. He and Anne wanted to be close to their daughters and grandchildren.

Healthier, Shook now is able to do chores around the house. Recently, he even painted a room in Diane’s Tempe home.

She is grateful that her father now is in a good place.

“We no longer have to worry,” Diane Shook said. “He’s doing great.”

# Supply

From Page 3

Retailers are getting nervous over dwindling inventory. Prices are rising.

Against that background, the market in the U.S. is hungry. Demand is high. Projections indicate that Americans are likely to spend more than in recent years for presents this holiday season, if only they can get their hands on them.

Wrangler News|wranglernews.com spoke to several small-business owners to assess where they stand for the holidays:

## Fred's Flowers

1860 E. Warner Road, Suite 108, Tempe  
Florals and gifts

Renee' Potter, owner



Fred's Flowers has been servicing consumers for more than eight decades, starting with a gladiola farm in Indiana. It is named for Fred Culp, a floral designer who began the retail side of the family flower business.

In 1986, Kathy Rogers, Fred's daughter, opened the family's second shop in Tempe. Renee'

Potter, Kathy's daughter and a fourth-generation florist, became owner of Fred's in Tempe.

Potter was born and raised in the floral industry, and she said the supply-chain shortage is among her greatest challenges.

"It has impacted my business in several ways," Potter said. "Our fresh products come from flower farms. Many of these farms are short on employees to harvest products and also to transport fresh products in a timely manner. Flowers grown in South America are imported through the Miami airport. This leads to transportation issues here in the United States. Flowers are either flown from Florida to Arizona or travel across the country on refrigerated trailers.

"Most of our hard goods are imported on the West Coast and, well, we all know the port stories."

Potter said that includes Christmas supplies that are sitting in ships off the coast.

"This has left retail florists scrounging for all kinds of supplies, like vases, easels for funeral arrangements, silk flowers for the holidays. Many of my local distributors here have had to look for new manufacturers for many products and we have seen an increase in supplies and flowers coming from Mexico."

Fred's Florist is focusing on fresh flowers and evergreens for the holiday season rather than on gift items.

"Our customers are very wise and understand the restraints many of us are facing," Potter said. "They have been very open minded about substitutions and alternate options for containers and keepsakes. We will be able to meet our customer demand as long as we stay prepared, organized and positive."

Potter, however, acknowledged that she is having difficulty filling positions.

"We have been working with a skeleton crew for the past year," she said. "We are working long hours with minimal to no days off at some peak times. My part-time staff has been working full-time hours."

While the holiday season is big for florists, it is weddings and funerals that drive the industry year-round.

"Many, many of the brides who had to postpone their weddings during the past year or two have chosen to get married this fall," Potter said.

"October and November are peak wedding seasons for us normally. This fall, we have had twice as many events. This takes additional staff to set up weddings and events onsite.

"Thankfully I have a few seasonal holiday employees that have stepped up to help make this a successful wedding season. December is one of our biggest, busiest months of the year. Holiday parties are back in full force."

## McKay's True Value

4939 W. Ray Road, Chandler  
Hardware and home products



Gary McKay, owner

In June, 2018, Gary McKay chucked his days as a traveling hardware wholesaler, owner of a landscaping business and once even a volunteer firefighter in Michigan to buy and re-open a hardware store that now is McKay's True Value.

McKay, who independently owns and operates his store, makes his living selling household tools and supplies. Electrical supplies have been difficult to get, he said, as have re-orders of Christmas-related products like artificial trees and lights.

"We've been getting plenty of electrical boxes that Home Depot hasn't been able to get," McKay said. "But caulking, a lot of the caulking that are used on a daily basis have been hard to get. It's weird things like caulking guns. But ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, used in injection molding) has become an issue because it's the resin that they make it with that has been in short supply. So, anything like construction is getting difficult."

He said he did his best to stock up during the summer on Christmas-related products.

"I mean, some of the Christmas stuff we didn't get, and when we sell what we have, we're not going to be able to re-order like Christmas lights and stuff," McKay said. "Usually we can order a couple of times before Christmas, but a lot of the lights we're already sold out. It's short supply and we ordered early, back in spring, on a lot of this stuff to make sure we had an adequate amount. But it's getting to be short supply.

"It's made it challenging to try to keep the shelves stocked. You've got to be able to look around and adjust accordingly, look at other options. It's not always the same thing that's short. This would be out for two-to-three months, then we'll get it back in. Then, this will be out for three months and we'll get it back in. Then it's something else. It's never the same things. It's challenging."

## Great Harvest Bread Co.

1730 E. Warner Road, Tempe  
Bakery and restaurant

George Walston, manager and son of owners  
Ward and Leslie Walston



The Walston family is dedicated to making their bakery your local, family-owned mom-and-pop bakery. For 13 years, they've been grinding their wheat berries daily and baking everything from scratch.

George Walston said that the supply-chain shortage has "impacted us in really weird

ways."

"There's just these weird things here and there, like all of a sudden butterscotch chips are two months out, or, it took us a month to get 32-ounce plastic cups," he said. "It's just these really weird things here and there that seems like there is no rhyme or reason for what is out of stock. We've been having to work our way around it."

Great Harvest does not source from the large food provider that many Valley restaurants use that are seeing shortages. Consequently, it has been able to keep its food products in good supply, although prices that it pays for them are up.

"Generally, the paper and plastic stuff to wrap the products or serve things in are a lot tighter to get," Walston said.

The Waltons are heartened that demand for their products is up "quite a bit" this year.

"We don't foresee any issues, there just might be a change in products here and there that will run shy of not having as much as last year and the year before," he said. "Nothing too dire."

Great Harvest is having difficulty finding

## Supply

From Page 13

employees, however, Walston acknowledged.

"Yep, right now I have the equivalent of two full-time jobs I have been looking to fill for about a month," Walston said.

**Freely Taproom & Kitchen**  
1730 E. Warner Road, Suite  
11, Tempe  
Bar and restaurant

Paul Gillingwater, owner



Don't get Paul Gillingwater going on supply-chain issues. He had to kick back the opening of his Freely Taproom & Kitchen several times

from its anticipated August launch. He finally opened the bar

in late September while awaiting arrival of delayed kitchen supplies for the restaurant, which finally opened in November.

Gillingwater, who grew up on a California vineyard and worked with O.H.S.O. Brewery + Distillery in Scottsdale for a decade, said it became a nightmare trying to get his new place open due primarily to shipping delays. "We had a cooler issue, all of our furniture, everything. We were impacted a lot by the warehouses, actually," Gillingwater said. "If it's just like normal FedEx packages, we're fine. But anything freight, it's the freight and pallets that are problems. All the furniture has been sitting in freight pallets for months because they don't have drivers to get it from the freight terminal to the warehouse.

"Furniture and anything stainless steel like the kitchen equipment is difficult. The world-wide stainless-steel

shortage hurt anything custom made."

It set him back six to eight weeks.

Now fully open, he is beginning to see the demand for his type of establishment for which the surrounding neighborhood has clamored. Many customers walk or ride bikes, he said.

"We're having a steady increase in customers every week. We're doing sales and we're also doing specials. That's been helping," Gillingwater said. "We've been coming up with creative ways to increase our business through specials."

If there is a silver lining, Gillingwater said, it is that he has averted staffing shortages that are walloping the food-and-drink service industry.

"We are completely full-staffed," he said. "In the beginning of November, we saw more traction of applicants."

## Easy ways to help small businesses

We all have our favorite local shops, restaurants and attractions. You can do your part to help them flourish, especially during the holiday season.

**Leave an online review** — When people search online for products and services, often reviews make the difference. Reviews matter.

**Get social** — Follow your favorite places on social media. It's where they post their best deals and product tips. Bonus points for sharing one of their posts or posting something positive on your own.

**Explore outdoor markets** — Go to Second Sundays on Mill, Merchantile Market at Big Surf or the Tempe Festival of the Arts. Try the Farmers Market in Downtown Chandler or the many activities of Downtown Chandler Community Partnership. See wonderful items, often hand-crafted by the seller. Outdoor markets are fun with music, art and treats. Get a snack and something to take home or gift.

**Trade local gift cards** — We all love to get gift cards and they are easy to wrap. Instead of searching everywhere for just the right thing, make a plan with friends to exchange only local gift cards this holiday. Have fun exploring shops or trading dinners out.

**Think locally** — Instead of checking Amazon, think local instead. Tempe Chamber of Commerce and Chandler Chamber of Commerce have business directories that can find new shopping sources. Or try Local First Arizona's retail site.

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for Youth*



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KTAR 92.3 FM

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this year's awardees...*

### YOUTH CHAMPIONS

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Marcos de Niza High School

**Jazmine Bridgewater**  
Kyrene Aprende Middle School

**LaVelle Lewis Jr.**  
Corona del Sol High School

**Gabriel Molina**  
Tempe High School

**Drew Passmonick**  
Kyrene Middle School

### Priscilla Valencia

Marcos de Niza High School

### ADULT CHAMPIONS

**Arizona Senator Sean Bowie**  
Protector Award

**CDS Teacher/Coach David Webb**  
Inspiration Award

**Kyrene Education Foundation**  
Advocate Award

To learn more about the Tempe Coalition and its vision to "Reduce youth risk behaviors and promote health and wellness through awareness, education, advocacy, and connecting to community resources" – Please contact: [Bernadette\\_Coggins@tempe.gov](mailto:Bernadette_Coggins@tempe.gov)

## Small businesses can take steps to success during these holiday supply-chain shortages

In Maricopa County, there were 66,607 business applications in 2020, many of them mom-and-pops. While the supply-chain shortage seems to have hit larger businesses harder than small ones, they're all feeling it to some degree.

These new business owners are facing additional challenges with the labor and supply shortages during their first year of operation. Increase in costs of supplies might cause an increase in what business owners are charging. The labor force may ask for an increase in salary since they are doing additional work due to labor shortages.

There are steps that small businesses can take amid the supply-chain shortage to effectively sell their products in challenging times:

Promote deals the entire week leading up to the event. Share updates and fun content on social-media platforms.

Have the business' website up and running to ensure reaching a larger audience.

Figure out a deal that will entice buyers, but still yield a nice profit.

For a brick-and-mortar business, try to have extra employees on staff that day to manage crowds.

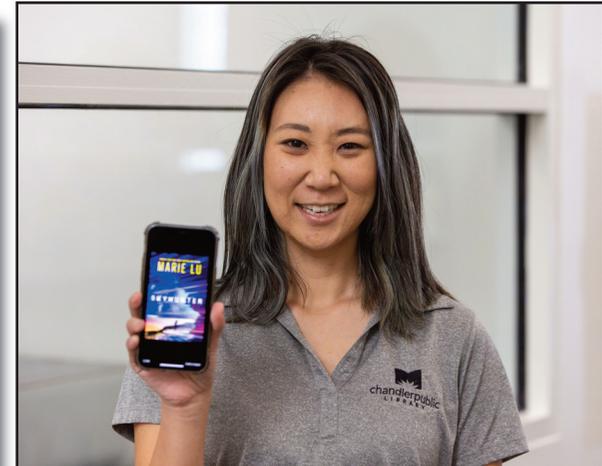
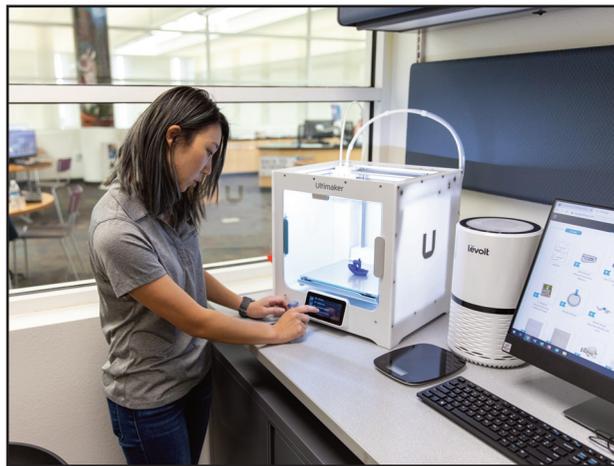
Small and medium businesses in the South Tempe/West Chandler area that employ people from other regions of the Valley or rely on customers from outside the immediate area soon will face another issue: Commuting during the Interstate 10 Broadway Curve Improvement Project. Valley Metro will help with that in a Transportation Management Association virtual event, 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Dec. 7.

It is designed to assist employers in finding alternative commuting options for their customers and employees. The program provides support through free, quarterly virtual events and will have a special focus on commuting during the Broadway Curve construction.

Speakers from Arizona Department of Transportation, Maricopa Association of Governments and other experts will discuss what to expect in the months to come.

To register: [sharetheride.com/survey/take.html?surveyId=6196c230c4f7f557cb30a5de](https://sharetheride.com/survey/take.html?surveyId=6196c230c4f7f557cb30a5de).

## Chandler's new Makery A place to let creative dreams run wild



Chandler's new Makery is a creative space at its Downtown Library. Top left, Brian Clapper digitally records his music. Top right: Martin Cortez works on a sewing machine. Bottom photos: Stacey Akahoshi, makerspace librarian, is proud of her work. – Chandler photos

Makers, get ready to make, create and innovate. Thanks to a grant from the Library Services and Technology Act as well as support from Chandler City Council, Chandler Public Library has opened its new state-of-the-art makerspace, The Makery.

It is a place where West Chandler residents and their citywide neighbors can turn an idea into reality, develop a product, start a business or create something they only dared to dream up – all while growing their skills and finding their passions.

On the second floor of the

Downtown Library, the 981-square-foot Makery is outfitted with three inventive areas:

The Programming Room, The Lab and The Studio. Upon completion of mandatory orientation sessions, makers gain access to emerging technology and traditional fabrication equipment.

"We are proud to offer these incredible tools and resources in a space that helps our community members unleash their potential," said Rachelle Kuzyk, library manager.

An incredible intersection of

creativity, art, culture, design, science and technology, the Makery enhances the library's ability to create learning opportunities in a rapidly evolving creative, scientific and technical landscape, Kuzyk said.

Teens, especially, may explore their creativity and cultivate their imaginations in interactive, hands-on ways using tools and materials for audio and video content creation, crafts, textile design, digital photography and 3D printing.

*More information: Downtown Library at 480-782-2800.*



## Holiday parade lights up Tempe's downtown . . . and revelers' spirits

The Tempe Fantasy of Lights Parade annually attracts revelers of all ages to view the sparkling lights and marching units – and this year's presentation was no different.

Mayor Corey Woods (top photo) works the crowd as children and families take in the holiday spectacle.

Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News







## DIVERSIONS



Salt River Flood, 1891

Marie Provine

## Artists guild joins observance of Tempe's 150th birthday with views of city's past

Members of the Tempe Artists Guild are collaborating with Tempe History Museum in its featured exhibit celebrating the city's 150th birthday.

In the exhibit, TAG Celebrates Tempe's History, guild members offer an artistic view of the times, people and places of the city's past. Local artists are displaying original work in the museum now through Feb. 26.

The art was produced with oil, acrylic, pencil, pastel, mixed media and watercolor. Many paintings were based on photos in the museum's archives.

This is the ninth year that guild members have partnered with the museum to feature the work of local artists.

"Tempe History Museum loves giving (artist guild) members a theme, and then we look forward to seeing their interpretations on our walls," exhibit coordinator Dan Miller

said. "They always provide great colorful works for our community room."

Said Guild President Marie Provine:

"Our members are accomplished artists who create unexpected and intriguing interpretations of what they see. To prepare for this exhibition, some of us perused the photo archives of the museum and discovered a wealth of fascinating and inspirational images. Others found evidence of Tempe's past in our current environment."

An artist's reception is open to the public and is scheduled 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7.

Tempe History Museum, at 809 E. Southern Ave., is open to visitors Tuesdays through Saturdays 10-5, closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

— Contributed by  
Sue Norton-Scott

## Tempe man brings sleigh-guiding hero to life in 'Rudolph'

By Steve Carr  
Special for Wrangler News

There's something magical in how a child engages with live theater.

For Tempe's Tommy Strawser, that spellbinding bond touched his theatrical soul.

"I started performing for kids during my last year at ASU through Arizona Opera's Outreach program," he said. "I hadn't acted much for young audiences before, but I fell in love with their reactions and attentiveness as they watched the show. So, when I came across a general audition post for Childsplay, I auditioned and the rest is history."

In the nine seasons he's been with Childsplay, Strawser, 36, has acted in lead and supporting roles, served as music director for several tours and taught acting classes.

Through Dec. 24, he's starring as the world's most-famous sleigh-guiding hero in Childsplay's musical adaptation of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer at Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix.

Based on the beloved classic 1960s TV Claymation special, which featured the unmistakable Burl Ives singing the iconic title song, the holiday classic soars off the screen and is filled with season-favorite hits, including "Holly Jolly Christmas" and wonderful characters Santa, Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice and Yukon Cornelius.

"I watched the original TV special a long time ago," Strawser said. "I have always been entranced with Claymation and stop-motion films. As a kid, it was magical the way these inanimate objects came to life. Now, as an adult, I can appreciate the time and artistry that goes into creating these types of films."

The difference, of course, is this show is live with real people playing the roles, he said.

"We also mix in projected visuals, puppetry and a special treat for the audience I don't want to give away here," he said.

Childsplay designed and created their puppets for the show, which is onstage in the Valley for the first time.

Strawser started acting in third grade at his Selinsgrove, Pa., elementary school. He wrote and



Tempe's Tommy Strawser stars in 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' through Dec. 24 at Herberger Theater. — Childsplay photo

performed "commercials" for a fourth-grade play. He's been acting professionally for nearly 15 years after earning a Bachelor of Music degree from West Chester University of Pennsylvania and attending ASU for a Master's Degree in Music Theatre and Opera Performance.

His focus now is on that reindeer with the bright red nose, and the takeaway message he hopes to deliver: "Believe in yourself."

### Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Through Dec. 24, Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe in Phoenix.

Adapted by Robert Penola with music and lyrics by Johnny Marks and directed by Childsplay Artistic Director Dwayne Hartford.

Tickets, starting at \$13, at [childplayaz.org/rudolph](http://childplayaz.org/rudolph).

More information:  
[www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org).



## Tumbleweed Tree Lighting, Parade return Dec. 4

The lighting of the iconic Chandler Tumbleweed Tree and the Parade of Lights, the city's nostalgic family holiday experiences, return for their 65th season on Dec. 4.

Festivities begin at 4:30 p.m., including a carnival-like atmosphere with free and low-priced attractions. Local talent will provide live entertainment and music in the downtown area around Dr. A.J. Chandler Park.

The parade, with its festive floats, dancing elves, Santa on a fire truck and millions of twinkling lights, steps off at 6:45 p.m., heading south on Arizona Avenue from City Hall to Chandler High School. More than 15,000 spectators are anticipated.

The parade will be livestreamed on the city's Facebook page: [facebook.com/cityofchandler](https://facebook.com/cityofchandler) for those who cannot attend.

The tree lighting is expected at approximately 8 p.m. It will be lighted through Jan. 2.

Free parking is available at four garages along Arizona Avenue, including the newest and largest at Oregon Street.

Early arrival is recommended for spectators, who are permitted to

bring chairs and blankets as they set up along the route.

The 35-foot tall and 20-foot wide tree features nearly 1,000 tumbleweeds covered in 80 pounds of glitter, 45 gallons of white paint and 35 gallons of fire retardant. It is wrapped in more than 1,200 LED lights.

Several streets in the downtown area will be closed or restricted during festivities:

- Arizona Avenue, from Frye Road to Pecos Road, closed 2:30-8:30 p.m.
- Arizona Avenue, from Frye Road to Chandler Boulevard, closed 2-10 p.m.
- Arizona Avenue, from Chandler Boulevard to Galveston Street, closed 6-9:30 p.m.
- Frye Road, from Washington Street to California Street, restricted 6-8:30 p.m.
- Chandler Boulevard, from Delaware Street to California Street, restricted 6-9 p.m.
- Several smaller streets in the downtown area also will be closed or restricted during the festivities.

The city presents the Tumbleweed Tree Lighting & Parade of Lights in partnership with American Furniture Warehouse, APS, Chandler Lions Club, Waste Management and Homelight.

*More information:*  
[chandleraz.gov/tumbleweedtree](https://chandleraz.gov/tumbleweedtree).

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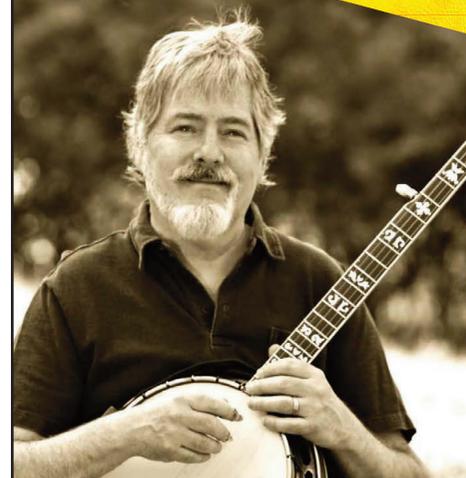
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Los Angeles & Mariachi Garibaldi  
de Jaime Cuéllar

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TCA PRESENTS  
**Dianne Reeves**  
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## Book Review

### W. Chandler author rings up riveting tale of living with disease that has no cure

By M.V. Moorhead

2016 was a landmark year for Anne McAuley Lopez, for better and worse. In March, she had gotten married, having gotten engaged the September before. During the hectic six-month run up to her wedding, she often didn't feel well.

"I thought it was exhaustion," she said. "I had really bad anxiety."

She was also bruising easily and losing her hair.

Soon the 43-year-old Chandler resident, a successful professional writer and online content provider, would learn that she wasn't just suffering from exhaustion and wedding jitters. In the summer of 2016, just months after her wedding, she visited a naturopath, and then a hematologist-oncologist, from whom she received a test called a BCR-ABL. This detects a blood-cell mutation that indicates a rare blood cancer called chronic myeloid leukemia.

Some five years later, McAuley Lopez has published a book about her experiences with the disease: *We Don't Get to Ring the Bell: My CML Story*.

"The title comes from chemo patients who, when they complete a course of treatment, get to ring a bell," she said. "We don't get to do that, because we have to take the medication until there is a cure."

Chronic myeloid leukemia is seriously rare. Per the American Cancer Society, it accounts for about 0.05 percent of all new cancer diagnoses in the U.S.



West Chandler author-marketing maven Anne McAuley Lopez

McAuley Lopez got the disease young. The average age to be diagnosed is 64. There is, as yet, no known cure. Managing the illness consists of daily chemotherapy in the form of a pill.

Difficult as this prospect is, McAuley Lopez notes that until fairly recent years there wasn't even a treatment.

"Prior to the late 1990s, (CML) was fatal," she said. "It was about a two-year diagnosis."

This changed with the development of a drug called Gleevec (Imatinib), which was approved for use in this country in 2001 and was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in May of that year.

Needless to say, the challenges of CML have been life-altering for



## SPORTS

# Corona badminton star Li nets runner-up position at state tourney

By Alex Zener

**Merilyn Li** of Corona del Sol High brought home the runner-up trophy in singles and the Aztecs, seeded seventh, advanced to the Division I state badminton tournament, showing tremendous improvement over the previous season.

In singles, second-seeded Li easily worked through the bracket.

"Merilyn is such a huge asset to the Corona badminton program," coach **Katie Pick** said. "She is so hard working, both on and off the court, and is enthusiastic about the game. Her training doesn't just end at school but she plays outside in the community."

Li faced No. 3 Samiya Bodhankar of Hamilton in the finals.

"Merilyn has been the No.1 player for Corona for the past two years, and I see that continuing into next season," Pick said. "She lost one match in the regular season, against Hamilton's No.1 player, who she faced again in the finals."

Li won the first set, 19-21, before Bodhankar came back to win the next two sets, 21-13 and 21-8, and the state championship.

Li, however, gained statewide recognition as a junior, according to Pick.

"Merilyn was recognized by coaches and others when named to the all-tournament team in the Flying Feathers Tournament, when selected as Corona del Sol athlete of the week, when chosen as section player of the year and when designated as our team's most valuable player," Pick said.

Corona's doubles pair, seniors

**Megan Kirchhardt** and **Kayla McDonald**, reached the second round before losing to Chaparral.

"Megan and Kayla, team captains, were always players I could count on and who were looked upon by the other girls on the team as role models," said Pick. "They both played, for the past three years, badminton and basketball at Corona, so had

developed a good relationship and jived well together.

"They were both forces to be reckoned with, both enthusiastic for the game and aggressive.

They really found their groove

towards the end of the season with the hopes of carrying that momentum into the state playoffs. We are really going to miss their leadership, competitiveness, and positive attitudes next year."

In the quarterfinals, Corona fell to No. 1 seed Perry.

"I was OK being the No. 7 seed because it just shows the growth that we made over the past year after being ranked No.16."

Pick is proud of her team's accomplishments this year.

"I cannot say enough about the players who represented Corona's badminton team this year. They were hardworking, both on the court and in the classroom, as many of them were taking Honors and AP classes," said Pick. "They built a comradery



Alex Zener

with each other, that was visible on the court during practice and in competition."

### Corona boys cross country

Corona's boys team placed 10th in the state meet among 19 teams.

Junior **Tyler Tisinger** has been Corona's leading cross-country runner all season season, starting with his 16th place in 17 minutes in the 5,000 meters junior race at the Chandler Invitational on Sept. 4. In his final race, the AIA Division I Cross Country Championships on Nov. 13 at Cave Creek Golf Course, he placed 16th in 16:48.8.

Tisinger's personal best was 15:57.6 on Sept. 24 at the Desert Twilight XC Festival, good for fourth place.

Tisinger finished fourth at the Division I Southeast AIA Sectional on Nov. 3, helping Corona take fifth among 14 schools.

Senior **Callum Rohrer** also improved during the season, finishing the Chandler Invitational in 54th in 18:49.31. He improved in the Casteel Invitational to a personal best of 17:11.1.

Other runners who helped the Aztecs place in the top five at several big meets were seniors **Diego Diaz** and **Gian Martinez-Richards** and juniors **Gabriel Gonzales** and **Diego Frausto**.

In the AIA Division I Cross Country Championship, Diaz was the second Corona runner to finish, 51st in 17:56.0. His personal best of the season was 17:19.2 at Desert Twilight.

Gonzales was the third Aztecs runner at state in 18:20.3 for 68th place. His personal best was 17:45.7 at the Casteel Invitational.

Martinez-Richards was Corona's fifth runner at the state championship in 18:43.6. His personal best of the season was 17:57.9 at Desert Twilight.

Several Corona runners participated in the NXR Southwest Regional Championships at Shalimar Country Club in Tempe on Nov. 20.

In the Men's 5,000 Meters Open – Large School, Rohrer was Corona's top runner finishing 66th. The next Corona runner was Diaz in 78th

place, followed by Davies-Boerner in 104th, freshman **Henry Yazzie** in 122nd, sophomore **Sean Waters** in 130th, sophomore **Stephen Brown** in 143rd, sophomore **Zachary Wiesner** in 148th, junior **Logan Sywak** in 159th, freshman **Aidan Strong** in 164th and sophomore **Valin Verma** in 166th place.

### Corona girls cross country

Corona, with a group of young runners on the girls team, placed 10th among 17 teams at state. Three of the top six were sophomores and one a freshman.

Sophomore **Paige Davies-Boerner** was Corona's top runner at state, finishing 21st in 20 minutes, 36.4 seconds. Her personal best was 19:38.9 at the Desert Twilight XC Festival on Sept 24. In her final race of the season, the NXR Southwest Regional Championships, she took 28th on Nov. 20.

Junior **Kimberly Musgrave** was the second Corona runner in the state meet, crossing the line in 40th in 21:14.5. Her personal best of 21:14.5 came at the Casteel Invitational on Oct. 15.

Sophomore **Mia Brannon** was the third Corona runner, finishing 69th at state in 22:29.5. Her personal best was 21:25.8 at the Casteel Invitational.

Corona's fourth runner, freshman **Sloan Guess**, finished 70th in 22:33.1. Her personal best was 20:14.6 at Desert Twilight.

Senior **Ashlinn Aguayo** was Corona's No. 5 runner and sophomore **Maria Gonzales** was Corona's No. 6 at the state championships.

### Marcos de Niza cross country

Junior **Luke Sieveking** placed 47th place in 18:05.5 at the AIA Division III Cross Country Championship on Nov. 13 at Cave Creek Golf Course.

He ran his best time of the season, 17:32.44 at Desert Twilight on Sept. 24. On Oct. 16 he won the 3rd Annual Cesar Chavez Classic Men's 5,000 meters varsity race.



## BUSINESS

### New Angie's Lobster in South Tempe follows Salad and Go playbook as model of efficiency

By Lee Shappell | Wrangler News Executive Editor

When Tony Christofellis was kicking around ideas for his new Angie's Lobster drive-through restaurants, he knew he wanted the first to be in South Tempe.

"We selected Baseline and Hardy because of the density and diversity of the trading area," Christofellis said.

He also knew that he wanted to borrow from the business and efficiency models of his Salad and Go, a drive-through chain he launched in

2013 and then sold last summer to make way for Angie's Lobster, which opened Nov. 30 at 835 W. Baseline Road in Tempe.

The shop, open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., is operating out of a food truck until build-out of the drive-through brick-and-mortar is complete in early 2022.

No cash is accepted. Payment is by debit/credit card and electronic benefits transfer only.

Angie's uses only wild-caught Maine and Canadian lobster, no langoustine (Norwegian lobster) or warm-water lobster.

Choose from the Lobster Roll Meal or the Fried Lobster Finger Meal, both served with French fries, toasted buttered bun, Angie's Sauce and an iced tea or lemonade for \$9.99. They're the only two items on the menu, in keeping with the simplicity of Salad and Go.

"The Salad and Go model was developed when I was young, while I was studying the business models of Southwest Airlines and Walmart," he said. "It got further defined with two key mentors, Ed Kolodzieski and Jerry Schafer. More importantly, the team at Salad and Go problem-solved every day and worked super hard to do more with less. Without their sacrifice and our prior focus on efficiency, Salad and Go could never offer \$5.74 salads.

"So we took what we learned over the years at Salad and Go and took it

to another level with Angie's. We started with the question: 'How do we make a wild-caught Maine and Canadian lobster meal as affordable as a chicken meal?' From there we did the math and problem solved until we cracked the code. We have an incredible team that is focused on efficiency. We chase efficiency, we don't chase revenue. We obsess about efficiency. That is a big difference that allows us to make the ultimate luxury food priced the same as a chicken meal."

Christofellis dedicated his new venture to his late mother. Angie was born on a Greek island and moved to Boston at a young age, an immigrant single mother of two. She worked in seafood restaurants her entire life and then opened Angela's Seafood outside of Boston. Seafood was in her blood. She passed away from cancer March 2, 2020.

"Angie's Lobster was created to honor our mother and make sure that the love we feel every day gets passed

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The late Angie Christofellis (right), for whom Angie's Lobster is named, often worked in the kitchen with her granddaughter. — Angie's Lobster photo

on to the next generation and to future generations -- a company that will live every day like she lived her life, with love, courage, compassion, servant leadership, energy, fight and fun," Christofellis said.

More information: [angieslobster.com](http://angieslobster.com).

## Vessl, Alkaline Water on a sustainability mission

Alkaline Water Company of Scottsdale, the country's largest independent alkaline company, has partnered with Tempe-based Vessl, Inc., which created an infusion cap that is featured on Alkaline's new A88CBD 25G Water.

Vessl aims to reduce supply chain costs and minimalizing environmental impact. The company partners with cities, citizens, companies and global brands to leverage their patented technology and solve one of the world's largest environmental issues: plastic waste.

The patented Vessl Closure bottle stores the CBD (and other active or functional ingredients) in a pressurized chamber within the bottle cap until the consumer twists it open for an instant infusion of flavor and functionality.

According to the company, this system provides the beverage they have come to expect from

Alkaline88 while maintaining the integrity of the ingredients stored in the cap without the need for preservatives or refrigeration. The Vessl closure and delivery device instantly mixes the ingredients prior to use for that "wow factor" customers demand.

Vessl was founded by Walter D. Apodaca Jr., who has held executive level positions at Coors and Coca-Cola.

Vessl is featured on brands in 50 countries around the world.

Alkaline Water also is said to be an eco-conscious leader, as well as the first national water company to use aluminum bottles, which are recyclable in all 50 states.

The company's Alkaline88 16-ounce aluminum bottle is available in more than 9,000 stores including Albertsons and Sprouts Farmers Market in Arizona.

The company was founded in 2012. With a state-of-the-art

proprietary electrolysis process, Alkaline88 delivers perfect 8.8 pH balanced alkaline drinking water.

As it became recognized as a growing lifestyle brand, Alkaline88 launched A88 Infused in 2019 to meet consumer demand for flavor-infused products.

The company's new six natural A88CBD functional waters, packaged in bottles patented by Vessl, debuted in September: Refresh Lemon Lime with vitamin C, Relax Peach Mango with theanine, Rest Strawberry Kiwi with Valerian root, Reenergize Berry Black Tea with natural caffeine, Relief Grapefruit Ginger with turmeric and Resistance Orange Tangerine with zinc.

For more information: [vesslinc.com](http://vesslinc.com), [thealkalinewaterco.com](http://thealkalinewaterco.com).

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The fare is authentic Mexican, and when we say authentic, we mean it! Upon entering, you'll be dazzled by the colorful décor, beautiful tables and chairs, Mexican painted murals, colorful banners hanging from the ceiling and beautiful art.

Warm orange and yellow tones echoing throughout the eatery will make this your favorite Mexican restaurant. Give La Casa De Juana a try and enjoy great food, awesome salsa, great service and amazing ambience. Don't forget happy hour from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day with \$2 beer (domestic and imports) and \$3 margaritas.

This place is a must. The flavorful salsa, the delicious margaritas, the extraordinary and well-priced food will definitely keep you coming back.

Check out our menu or order online at [juanashouse.com](http://juanashouse.com)

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December 2021



## Candidates certified for March 2022 Primary Election

City Clerk Carla Reece has certified that seven City Council candidates will be on the March 8, 2022, election ballot for three open City Council seats.

As of the Nov. 8 filing deadline, certified candidates (in alphabetical order by last name) are:

**Jennifer Adams**  
**Arlene Chin**  
**Casey Clowes**  
**Berdetta Hodge**  
**Gina Kash**  
**Harper Lines**  
**John Skelton**

Elected candidates will be sworn in to four-year terms in July 2022.

Prospective candidates were required to submit nomination paperwork and petitions containing between 1,000 and 2,752 valid signatures from registered Tempe voters. Nomination petitions and paperwork are subject to legal challenge.

Register to vote by Feb. 7 for the March 8 election. Ballots will be mailed starting Feb. 9. Register to vote through the Maricopa County Elections Department at 602-506-1511 or at [www.maricopa.vote](http://www.maricopa.vote).

According to the Tempe City Charter, Section 7.01, the Primary Election is held to nominate or elect candidates. The General Election will take place May 17.

Information about the election can be found at [tempe.gov/election](http://tempe.gov/election). Voters also can call Tempe 311 at 480-350-4311 or email [clerk@tempe.gov](mailto:clerk@tempe.gov).

## Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature

If you've ever wondered what goes on at the State Capitol, join the Mayor and Council for Neighborhood Day at the State Legislature on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., at the Arizona State Senate, 1700 W. Washington St.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Councilmembers, learn about Tempe's legislative program and get acquainted with their Arizona legislative representatives.

Participants can take self-guided tours after the program. Register at [tempe.gov/neighborhoods](http://tempe.gov/neighborhoods) or by calling 480-350-8234.

To receive email updates on bills that the City of Tempe is following at the Legislature, sign up by

selecting the "Elections and Legislative Alerts" option under the "Tempe City Hall" heading at [tempe.gov/enews](http://tempe.gov/enews). Throughout the legislative session, bills are monitored for neighborhood and city impacts.

As these bills are scheduled for committees and floor votes, the Mayor will be sending alerts to notify you that the city needs your neighborhood's assistance.

Policy changes at the state level can affect resources, activities and operations in Tempe so it's important to stay informed.

For more information, contact Tempe's Government Relations Officer, Marge Zylla, at 480-350-8922.

## Keep the water on – set up a payment plan today

Beginning in January, Tempe will resume water service disconnections due to unpaid utility bills. Tempe has not suspended water service for late/non-payment since the beginning of the pandemic to provide relief to those affected by COVID-19. It is now time to resume shut offs for unpaid, past due bills.

If you are behind in your Tempe utility bill, please set

up a payment plan today.

Payment plans set up in advance of disconnections will keep the water on, while installment payments are made on the past due balance.

Current balances will also need to be paid. Customer Service is available to assist online and by phone. Visit [tempe.gov/CustomerService](http://tempe.gov/CustomerService) or call 480-350-8361.

Full service is available by phone from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## 2022 Bulk Trash schedule now available

New for 2022, Tempe's bulk trash (uncontained collection) has changed.

The area letters are still the same. The map area colors have changed.

The collections will continue every other month for each area and there are slight schedule adjustments for better efficiency.

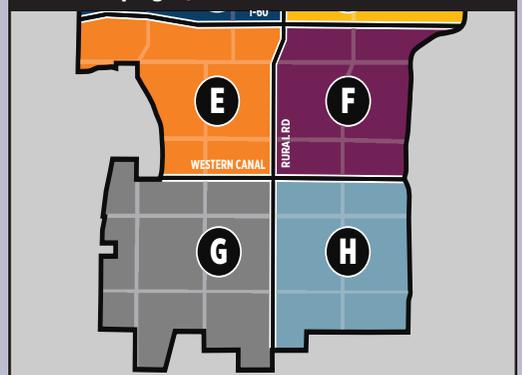
Visit [tempe.gov/BulkTrash](http://tempe.gov/BulkTrash) for program information.

### January 2022 Uncontained (Bulk) Garbage and Green Organics Collection Schedule

|        |           |
|--------|-----------|
| AREA E | JAN 3-6   |
| AREA F | JAN 10-13 |
| AREA G | JAN 17-20 |
| AREA H | JAN 24-27 |

Items may be placed for collection **no earlier than 10 days prior** and **no later than 6 a.m.** on Monday of your collection week.

[tempe.gov/BulkTrash](http://tempe.gov/BulkTrash) 480-350-4311



[www.tempe.gov](http://www.tempe.gov)



## Kyrene increases pay for subs to \$175 a day

Substitute teachers in Kyrene School District are getting a \$60 per day pay increase after the district Governing Board approved the hike at its Nov. 23 meeting.

The district said it had to take the action to assure that it could continue to land backups over neighboring

districts when regular teachers are out for a day.

"In order to remain competitive in the East Valley and attract quality substitutes in Kyrene, it is necessary to raise the daily rate of pay for substitutes," said Lisa Gibson, Kyrene's executive director of talent management.

Certified subs' pay goes to \$175

— SUBS, Page 27

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## CAREER READY TEMPE



The City of Tempe and Tempe Chamber Foundation are excited to support nine Tempe juniors and seniors this fall through a paid internship with local Tempe businesses!

[tempe.gov/CareerReadyTempe](http://tempe.gov/CareerReadyTempe)



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## TEMPE CHAMBER BUSINESS ACADEMY



The Tempe Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the 2022 Business Academy with co-sponsor Rio Salado College, presented by Silicon Valley Bank. Exclusively for Tempe Chamber Members, The Business Academy is an opportunity for businesses and business leaders to gain the knowledge they need to grow their companies and strengthen our community. Leaders can attend individual classes or the entire series. Each class will be held at Rio Salado College on the second Tuesday of the month from 2:00 - 3:00 pm starting January 11th, 2022. This program serves both organizations' missions to serve the educational needs of local business and industry sectors.

Academy participants will receive structured training in various disciplines ranging from leadership and marketing, to human resources and finance. The program will run monthly from January to June 2022, consisting of six 90-minute classes taught by expert instructors. Those who complete the Academy will receive a digital badge and certificate of

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## Subs

From Page 25

per day, up from \$115.

Long-term substitutes now make even more, \$200 per day, up from \$140.

Kyrene retired teachers who return to be long-term substitutes get \$205 per day, up from \$145.

The greater pay for long-term substitutes and KSD retired-teacher long-term substitutes takes into account planning time that is necessary as opposed to a single-day sub stepping in.

Money for the increases comes from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, federal funds that support K-12 schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To work as a substitute for Kyrene School District, teachers must become an employee of ESS West, a managed-services organization that provides qualified substitute professionals to K-12 school districts.

Those interested in becoming a substitute may attend an orientation session by contacting [AZsupport@ess.com](mailto:AZsupport@ess.com) or calling 866-208-7454.

## Discrimination

From Page 3

meeting, Tucson was the only Arizona city with this protection. Only 33 cities and counties in the U.S. currently have it.

The need for a law was inspired by the CROWN Research Study, which found that Black women are 30 percent more likely to be made aware of a formal workplace-appearance policy than their non-Black colleagues.

Black women also are 1.5 times more likely to be sent home from work due to their hairstyle and are 83 percent more likely to report being judged more harshly on their looks than other women.

Tempe's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, which was passed in 2014, now includes provisions that protect against race-based discrimination relating to an individual's hairstyle at workplaces, in housing and public accommodations.

The ordinance makes it unlawful to discriminate against people based on race, color, age, religion, national origin, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, U.S. military veteran status or familial status.

Tempe residents overwhelmingly voted in 2014 to reflect the ordinance protections within the Tempe City Charter.

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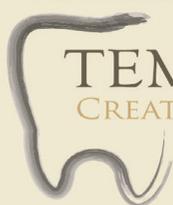
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## Author

From Page 20

McAuley Lopez. A Stratford, Connecticut, native and a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Economics, she had been enjoying an active career as a copywriter and blogger, writing for hire on subjects like marketing, real estate and travel and supervising web content for a variety of clients. CML required her to put these pursuits on hold.

“There’s definitely a sense of finding balance in all of it,” she said. “It’s been a balancing act with my business.”

This balance appears to be paying off. The treatment has been effective, recently allowing McAuley Lopez to return to work part time.

She looks forward to fully resuming her career.

“I’m feeling more like my old self

than I have in a while,” she said. “I’ve shown zero percent leukemia for almost four years, and normal blood work for a year and a half.”

The low point of her journey, she says, “was a weekend where I was on the couch, in pain, called (the doctor) on Monday, didn’t get a call back.” She called again on Tuesday, telling them the pain, a stiffness from her hips to her knees, was so severe that she was thinking she might “stop taking the pills, and just die.”

She was talked out of this idea, happily.

And the high point?

Her answer is immediate: “Getting this book done!”

For that, it really seems like McAuley Lopez should get to ring a bell.

*We Don’t Get to Ring the Bell: My CML Story* by Anne McAuley Lopez will be available on Amazon on Wednesday, Dec. 15, for \$9.99.

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# OP-ED

## Whew! Such a relief to know that Tempe Council proposes tearing down 100 years of good over ancestors' suspected KKK ties

By John Keating

Last weekend I received the *Wrangler News*. As a 30-year resident of Tempe, I enjoy and expect the *Wrangler* to entertain and inform me.

An article in the Nov. 20-Dec. 2, 2021 edition really caught my eye.

The article, written by Clifford Summerhill, was titled *Tempe to consider renaming some parks, streets to address ties to discriminatory group*. That's correct readers. According to Clifford, the Tempe City Council is moving forward with this action after they were informed by "staff" from the Tempe History Museum that the "staff" had discovered that some "prominent" Tempe ancestors (from more than 100 years ago and now deceased) may have paid dues to a KKK chapter.

According to the article, the City Council, upon hearing arguments from residents on both sides, voted to establish a special committee to look into name removal and changes. If approved by the special committee, it seems we can finally (after 100 years) move forward with acknowledging the guilty and punishing their families by changing the names of several streets and landmarks.

Let us thank our lucky stars that our brave leadership quickly jumped into action. Now ALL Tempe residents can rest at ease that our City Council

and "special" committee are on the job ... rooting through 100-year-old family records to make sure we appease the offended and punish the



John Keating

families associated with some relative from 100-plus years ago. Sounds like due process to me!

As a Tempe resident, I personally wanted to know what specific thoughts go into

making this kind of decision. So I called the Council to get answers.

Surprisingly, I found it somewhat difficult to get through (by phone) to these brave souls. Surely they were busy with other pressing matters. I actually got an answer on the third call. Tim answered the phone. A very nice guy, but alas ... he is not an elected official. To my fortune, Tim happens to be an assistant to two Council members. So I actually reached a guy who knows a guy who knows another guy.

I assumed Tim was extremely busy with all the tasks on his plate, like tracking down 100-year-old KKK members and answering calls from pesky residents. Even so, Tim was

kind enough to talk to me and confirm that Clifford's article was no misprint.

I voiced my disbelief to Tim. He assured me the story was true and that our Council members are indeed spending precious time and energy (your tax dollars) doing EVERYTHING they can to root out these 100-plus-year-old offenders and punish their current families. He let me know that I can count on our brave leaders and the intrepid city historians to find the brutal offenders TODAY in order to wipe out the injustice from YESTERDAY.

What a relief! And here I thought they were busy building roads, lowering crime, alleviating homeless problems and lowering taxes.

Tim and I talked for several minutes. I asked if he could help me understand the motives behind tracking down these families and removing or tearing down their names. He tried to explain. I didn't really understand his responses. I had a few questions for Tim and hoped that he would pass them on to my representatives:

First, is the KKK the only group singled out?

Second, what other groups may constitute name removal?

Can the offender be a great, great, great uncle, mother, father, cousin, brother, sister?

Who makes the final determination of name removal? When is it egregious enough to tear down or remove a family name?

Will all committee members and Council members submit their family histories so we can assess their 100-year-old relatives?

Will all elected officials and the city of Tempe return 100 percent of ALL monies donated to them by named families?

Do any of the wonderful deeds these families performed in the last 100 years count for anything?

Can you put this same or more effort into BUILDING UP?

And who will be in charge of selecting new names?

Those were just a few of the questions I asked. I asked him to relay

to our leaders that I felt they are walking a very slippery slope. I asked him to please tell them that when you go down this road be prepared for unintended consequences.

As I was ending my conversation with Tim, I was surprised beyond belief. The Honorable Mayor of the City of Tempe, Corey Woods, stepped into Tim's office and joined the phone conversation. We had a spirited conversation to say the least. Like Tim, The Honorable Mayor was very cordial and attentive. He did not necessarily agree with my views of the situation. I will leave it at that. ... We wrapped up the conversation and I thanked him for addressing my concerns. He thanked me for calling and assured me that things were in good hands. He let me know that he could walk and chew gum at the same time! I congratulated him for that.

I'm not sure I will call again. I truly believe our current leaders have a very different view of this wonderful world and town and the people that built it than I do. Any opinion from me will probably have little to no effect on a group of people more concerned with tearing down than building up.

In the next city election, please vote!

*John Keating is a South Tempe resident*

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# Some thoughts as we end the year

## Commentary by Matt Orlando

**A** BIG thank you for having confidence in your local governments by overwhelming approving the Kyrene and Chandler School Maintenance and Operating overrides, as well as the \$273M Bond election ballot measures.

These new funding sources will be used wisely to ensure Chandler residents and businesses have a brighter future.

### Speaking of businesses, please shop locally

This holiday season I wanted to encourage you to shop local and support the many restaurants and retailers that stepped up to support and serve our community throughout the pandemic - it is our time to give back.

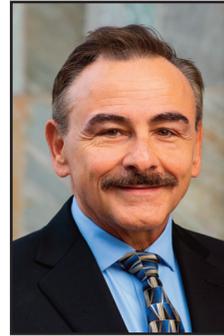
West Chandler is home to a variety of hotels, activities for the whole family and some of the best shopping and dining in the community, including more than 1 million square feet of the top restaurants and retailers at the Chandler Pavilions and Casa Paloma centers.

These businesses have become a destination not only for locals, but for the southeastern metropolitan area as well.

Throughout December, the City will host several giveaways online to promote Chandler-based businesses. The promotion is strategically timed to support West Chandler businesses during the holiday shopping season and the start of construction on the I-10 Broadway Curve Improvement Project.

Choose Chandler this holiday season and be sure to follow @VisitChandler on Facebook and @VisitChandlerAZ on Twitter for our social media giveaways.

Check out to explore the many gems you have right in your own backyard.



Matt Orlando

### West Chandler Branding

I've received numerous inquiries about the new signage for West Chandler. Over the years, the council has used signage to distinguish the diversity of our neighborhoods, add identity and to promote the economic strength of our city.

The new West Chandler signage joins, such notable branding sections of the city: Price Road Corridor, Downtown Chandler, Uptown Chandler and The Airpark to name few.

It is our goal to continue to attract businesses, support your neighborhood amenities and enhance the pride we have for the West Chandler communities with this new designation. It gives me great pleasure to cite West Chandler as a great place to live, work and play to my valley-wide colleagues.

Stay safe, have a great holiday, and get some rest because we have a lot of work to do next year to enhance our great quality of life.

*Matt Orlando is a member of the Chandler City Council.*



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