

Wolf Howl

2023 Spring Issue

**Check out our
coverage of the
Spring Musical on
page 24!
Flip to the end for our
annual spring
playlist!**

Photo by Kate Rogers

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Governor Ron DeSantis Challenges Trump's Hold on Republican Party in 2024 Election

By Lexi Moreno

The 2024 election for the presidency is not one to be ignored. The GOP features a former president and an ambitious Governor as Democrats await President Biden's formal announcement of his reelection campaign. But, whether the country is ready or not, November 5, 2024, is already on the horizon. Candidates will begin their tours around the country, all competing for America's vote with various pledges of change, continuity, and prosperity. This comes at a crucial time when the country faces significant challenges, including economic recovery from the pandemic, climate change, social justice issues, and political polarization.

With just over nine months until the Republican Iowa Caucus in January, former President Donald Trump remains at the forefront of the Republican party. The Trump campaign began in early November last year following the midterms, immediately launching with rallies nationwide. His candidacy has been met with enthusiasm among Republicans across the country and a strong lead in the polls over his most prominent potential rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

A Harvard Center for American Political Studies and Harris Poll survey showed Trump with a 26-point national lead at 50%, to DeSantis at 24%. DeSantis' poor showing could result from his refusal to respond to Trump's verbal attacks. Supporters of the former President have recently taken to attacking the Governor over his response to President Trump's indictment; DeSantis refused to involve himself in the process and instead focused on "real issues" in Florida. While DeSantis has mainly remained supportive of Trump and his policies, he has also sought to establish himself as a distinct leader within the Republican Party who can stand alone from the former president.

Although DeSantis has yet to officially announce his candidacy, the Governor has taken all the necessary steps for a campaign launch, publishing a new book laying the foundation for his agenda, meeting with key donors, and ramping up his Super PAC with former Trump and Cruz campaign aides. He has continuously dominated the national conversation with his handling of the pandemic, emphasizing personal responsibility and limited government

intervention. In his four years, he has implemented policies prioritizing Florida's economy, including tax cuts, deregulation, and job creation. DeSantis has also positioned himself as a vocal critic of big tech, censorship, and "cancel culture." Ron DeSantis is expected to announce his campaign once the legislative session in Florida ends this May.

President Biden's announcement for reelection is anticipated for April, the same month he began his campaign in 2019. Polling by Gallup shows a 40% approval rating for Biden, the average among U.S. Presidents is 53%. Although his ratings are lower than his predecessors, a recent poll by Quinnipiac University found that in the potential case of a repeat of the 2020 election, Biden would lead Trump at 48%, just two percent over Trump's 46%. In the case of a DeSantis nomination, the same poll suggests the



Photo by Richard Graulich for Florida Times-Union Press

roles would be reversed, with the Governor at 48% and President Biden at 46%. The poll justifies some Republican leadership concerns about Trump losing once again, especially with his several ongoing investigations.

Ultimately, the 2024 election will be critical for the Republican Party and the country. The decision between Ron DeSantis and Donald Trump represents a fundamental choice between different visions for America's future. Whether the GOP chooses to prioritize policy, personality, or a combination of both will significantly affect the party's success and the country's trajectory.

Earthquakes in Türkiye Devastate the Nation

By Andrew Phillips

On February 6, 2023, Türkiye was hit with the most devastating string of earthquakes in the last 84 years. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Gaziantep in Türkiye and a portion of northern and western Syria, killing 44,000 and affecting over 14 million people, forcing 1.5 million citizens into homelessness; much of this was due to collapsed buildings and infrastructure damaged by the quake and its aftershocks. This disaster, while clearly a result of natural occurrences, has a darker story behind it. Three weeks after the disaster, over 180 people involved in the development of the collapsed buildings have been arrested amid claims of corruption, as the majority of the 44,000 fatalities came from the destruction of poorly constructed properties. When questioned by CNBC regarding the arrests, Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said, "Those formally arrested and remanded in custody include 79 construction contractors, 74 people who bear legal responsibility for buildings, 13 property owners and 18 people who had made alterations to buildings."

While the criminal investigations are underway, Turkish president Recep Erdogan declared a three-month state of emergency in order to allocate resources more quickly to those in need. In addition to the emergency declaration, CNBC reports that over 25,000 search and rescue teams have been deployed to search for the missing civilians that

were involved in the earthquakes. The rapid response by Erdogan is certainly a breath of fresh air for all those affected by the natural disaster and is a silver lining amidst the chaos caused by this disaster. While recovering from earthquakes of this scale is always a challenge, it is particularly bad for Türkiye and Syria, as they have already been suffering from a combination of war and economical failure as a result of the Ukraine conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic. The various magnitude 6 and 7 earthquakes that struck the nation could not have hit a more vulnerable target, and the ensuing property damage and loss of residence is devastating for the Syrian and Turkish people. Concerns cover more than just economic issues however, as fires erupted in Türkiye's Iskenderun Port, forcing the nation to halt all oil exports. The chain reaction caused by the series of earthquakes will leave a scar in the area and will certainly have lasting repercussions that will be felt by every civilian unfortunate enough to be involved in the crisis.



Photo by Andrew Phillips

Americans Kidnapped in Mexico

By Madeline Moran

In early March, five Americans decided to head to Mexico, and at the border, one was unable to cross and was left in Texas. The other four were kidnapped after crossing over the Mexican border. On the morning of March 3, Eric James Williams, Zindell Brown, and cousins Latavia "Tay" McGee and Shaeed Woodard entered Mexico. According to her family, McGee (a mother of five) traveled to Mexico planning to get a cosmetic procedure. There was no report as to why the others went with her.

According to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City's statement to ABC News, "Shortly after crossing into Mexico, unidentified gunmen fired upon the passengers in the vehicle". The four Americans were then moved into another car and taken away. During the kidnapping, a 33-year-old Mexican woman named Arely

Pablo was hit by a stray bullet and died six days later on March 9. On the morning of March 7, outside of Matamoros, the four Americans were found at a wooden shack in the area. Two of them were found alive and the other two were found deceased. One of the deceased was found inside and the other was outside. The two Americans found dead had blankets or sheets on top of them, a source close to the investigation told ABC News. One of the dead was wearing a surgical robe when he was found, the source said. On March 10, five alleged members of the Gulf Cartel, a powerful Mexican cartel, took responsibility and were charged with aggravated kidnapping and murder. Eric Williams was shot two times in one leg and one in the other; he has now undergone surgery in a Texas hospital.

MSU Community Grieves and Heals After Shooting

By Jocelyn Branca

On February 13, 2023, Anthony Dwayne McRae came onto the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing, Michigan and killed 3 and injured 5 students in less than 5 hours. At 8:25 pm, the first shots were heard and the university sent a "Run, Hide, Fight" text to all the people on campus. "Run, Hide, Fight" is a message that means evacuating from danger, hiding in a secure place from danger, and if there is no other option, fighting for your life to protect yourself. The Gun Violence Archive says the MSU shooting is the 67th mass shooting this year.

As the MSU community grieves, many other schools around the country are also aware of and mourning this situation. When school shootings occur, many schools think about the procedures they use for lock-downs and whether they are up to date. The safety of students is a concern for teachers, parents, and students. Capri Woodens, a current junior at CHS, says, "I feel like our school protocols are fast and up to date..., but it could have a little more work done." Some believe further legislation is needed as well. A survivor of the Oxford school shooting also survived the MSU shooting and stated that she believes the system failed her.

Michigan State University canceled all classes for the week after the incident and resumed the following Monday. The days that followed the shooting were filled with grief. On Wednesday, hundreds of MSU students participated in a sit-in at the capitol in Lansing to tell the legislators what the students had experienced and felt during the shooting in the hope something would be done. Following the sit-in, the university held a vigil for all students, attended by Gretchen Whitmer, the governor of Michigan, giving

them the time to honor and remember the victims.

Following the incident, Governor Gretchen Whitmer called for what she calls common sense legislation to reduce gun violence, including background checks, safe firearm storage laws, and risk protection orders. It has been reported that the majority of Michigan voters are for this action. Following this, Michigan senators introduced eleven new firearm-related bills.

However, passing these bills will not be easy. Because of Michigan's gun rights stated in their state constitution, every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state. Furthermore, the Republican lawmakers in Michigan are not in favor of restricting guns and argue that legislation should focus instead on mental health and school safety programs. Because of these two issues, conflicts increase, and the possibility of a new gun safety law decreases.



Photo By Jocelyn Branca

Rio Verde Water Crisis Leaves Future Uncertain for Residents

By Andrew Philips

Amid a major drought, one Arizona community is struggling to acquire the most basic of needs: water. Due to a municipal issue with the city of Scottsdale, Rio Verde Foothills has completely lost access to their typical supply from the city. While some Rio Verde residents have access to private wells, over 500 people are completely without access to water. As the community continues to expand, the drying out of wells combined with the rescission of the water contract with Scottsdale has led to a serious crisis with dire consequences.

It's difficult to place blame during this situation, but some believe this was mainly a problem of planning on Rio Verde's part. CHS Environmental Science teacher Mr. Davis says, "What has happened in Rio Verde...is where homes and a community have been built without sufficient planning to ensure that they have enough water to supply that community." The City of Scottsdale warned the community for over half a decade that the water supply would be cut off, but the affluent community of Rio Verde continued to expand, with a median home price increasing to 625,000

dollars. When a plan was proposed to give the community access to water and a subsequent increase in taxes, their response was unexpected. "The residents of Rio Verde put forward a plan to form their own water district where, essentially, just like Chandler...they would have their own water treatment and resources...but that would cost the residents there a lot of money. And, as a result, they voted no on this," Mr. Davis explains. Some argue that the problem has been glaringly obvious for a long while, but the unfortunate citizens of Rio Verde are suffering from the city's decision to place their money at a higher priority than water access.

The people of Rio Verde are incensed about Maricopa County's decision to cease supplying water to the rural community. In an interview with 12 News in response to this decision, county supervisor Thomas Galvin of District 2, which includes Rio Verde Foothills, said, "Cutting off water is absolutely atrocious and is a black mark in the history of Arizona. What we're all sick of is publicity stunts...[and] false information from Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega, and his inability to help these folks find a source of water." With no definitive resolution to either side's woes, all signs point to this dilemma lasting for many more years to come.

Q New Electives for 2023-'24 ×

IB Global Politics

This elective helps students explore and understand the abstract political concepts of society by grounding them in case studies and real-life examples. It will be taught by Mr. Hammond in Room 209, and has no fee!

Beginning Swim

Taught by Mrs. Moxley, the course will be designed to teach non-swimmers and/or those starting out how become proficient in the field. The class is open to all high schoolers from 9-11 grade, and has no club fee.

AP Human Geography

AP Human Geography will be returning next year as a social studies elective! It will teach students about the systematic study of patterns and events that shape humans, and the marks they leave on their surrounding landscape.

First African American Students Who Integrated Chandler High Honored at Celebration Plaza

By Tyler Irwin and Madeline Moran

On January 28, 2023, Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke and Mr. Willie Arbuckle spoke at a very special ceremony at Celebration Plaza at Tumbleweed Park, celebrating Arbuckle and seven other African American students who integrated Chandler High School 74 years ago. A brass plaque honoring Arbuckle, Robert Turner, Artie Mae Turner, Joella Arbuckle, Ernestine Jackson, Willie Ruth Payne, J. L. Payne, and Nina Loftan was installed at Celebration Plaza to commemorate these important pioneers in Chandler history. At the dedication ceremony attended by Mr. Arbuckle, family members of the other students, and community members, Arbuckle, a kind and genuine speaker, painted an insightful picture of what those first days were like for him.

The integration of Chandler High was four years ahead of the 1954 US Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* and a monumental feat in the fight for civil rights. In an interview with ABC15, Arbuckle said about his first day, “It was totally uneventful. It was as if we didn’t exist. We were invisible. Not in a bad way.”

Although Chandler High School was integrated in 1949, the rest of the city was not. “It was just a time of complete segregation, everywhere but Chandler High School,” Arbuckle stated.

Another student, Ernestine Jackson Johnson, shared her point of view from their first days at Chandler High with 12News, saying, “There were some rough moments that first year... We could never sit in any restaurant or buy ice cream in the corner drug store.”

The plaque honoring Arbuckle and his

classmates is an important step in honoring this history, but it’s critical to keep sharing these stories. As Arbuckle said, “People need to know about it. Not so much because it was me, but because it happened. It’s total history.”

We learn about public school integration in our United States history classes, but it’s easy to forget that this history happened in our city, not so long ago. While *Brown v. Board of Education* was a national story covered across the country, Willie Arbuckle, Robert Turner, Artie Mae Turner, Joella Arbuckle, Ernestine Jackson, Willie Ruth Payne, J. L. Payne, and Nina Loftan were trailblazers in the fight for civil rights in Arizona, right here at Chandler High School. Even though they felt “invisible,” these brave students made a visible impact on the city of Chandler and our entire country.



Photo by Tyler Irwin

CHS Teachers Discuss Arizona's Teacher Shortage and Implications

By Gabby Miller

Over the past seven years, public schools across the state of Arizona have experienced a continuous decline in teachers. Based on data from the [Arizona Personnel Administrators Association](#) (ASPAA), the global pandemic significantly affected the 2023-2024 year as nearly 10,000 teaching positions were unfilled prior to starting school. Public educators have implemented strategies to combat this shortage, but the teacher shortage continues to grow.

Chandler High School is determined to maintain its academic excellence as a seven-time A+ School of Excellence. As of this school year, CHS has employed over a hundred-fifty teachers through various academic departments (CTE, English, Fine Arts, Math, Science, and more). The International Baccalaureate World School has a diverse background with an estimate of 3,200 high school students. Although CHS holds valuable reputations in both academics and athletics, there is no doubt that the public school has experienced some effects of the shortage.

Trevor Hammond, who teaches both Government and World History, has resided at Chandler High School's Department of Social Studies for the last two years. Hammond explains, "So, you have working professionals, many of which have a master's degree or higher and these people cannot afford to live in the cities that they work in. So many teachers have made the decision that as much as they love their job they need to either find another field with better pay or move to a state that values its teachers and education system more." Unless more Arizonians invest in public education, Mr. Hammond believes that the teacher shortage will continue to damage the state's education system.

Approximately seven years ago, student-teacher Alyssa Calvano began her academic journey to

achieve a Master's in Fine Arts at Arizona State University. Ms. Calvano is eager to become an official dance teacher and intends to uphold several goals. "I will maintain connections, promote what I teach, and bring awareness [to the teacher shortage]," she says.

CHS Dance Director Tiffany White has been a member of the Chandler Wolves community for four years now. She has previously worked at other Arizona school districts, such as Gilbert Public Schools and the Coolidge Unified School District. This is Mrs. White's tenth year as a public school teacher, but recently, her exhaustion has grown as Arizona loses more teachers. This puts more stress on everyday instructors as they are forced to step into this role, while being expected to maintain their official classrooms. Such demanding requirements lead to more teachers feeling burnt out and the need to quit. "It's like a hamster-wheel cycle," Mrs. White adds. Considering her accomplished background in higher education, Mrs. White feels it is unfair that those who lack teaching experience are instantly deemed as qualifying. It is an exception that the state has made due to losing more educators year by year. Ultimately, Chandler High's dance teacher hopes that public schools in Arizona can have an upturn of events in the next five years.

In what ways has the state of Arizona confronted the teacher shortage? The Arizona Teachers Academy allows aspiring teachers to leave college debt-free. Furthermore, the Arizona K12 Center is involved with fee assistance to future educators who are trying to get certified. The [Arizona Department of Education](#) has listed a great number of resources for education scholarships under state universities and community colleges.

Teachers and Students Question Need for Standardized Testing

By Makena Colihan

The use of standardized testing to measure students' academic achievement in schools has fueled controversy not only for students, but also teachers. Understanding the effects of testing requires an examination of what exactly standardized testing is, which includes its benefits and challenges. Standardized testing is a broad term referring to an assessment that establishes a baseline for student performance on school, district, and state levels. Students start standardized testing at the third grade level. The testing is administered by the state to get data for teacher and student performances in the classroom. The goal of standardized testing is to compare student scores across different groupings, improve the quality of instruction, and ensure the validity of curriculums. It's common knowledge that teachers and schools are evaluated based on students' test scores; however, it is becoming less and less common for teachers to be penalized for their students' scores. While teachers may not lose pay or lose their jobs based on standardized test scores, teachers absolutely feel pressure from all directions when it comes to testing season. From parents to students to administrators to other teachers, the pressure to have your students show growth on these tests is "borderline unbearable," despite there being little to no threat of losing your job.

When asked about their opinion of standardized testing, students and teachers had a similar response. A fifth grade teacher in CUSD responded, "Standardized testing is good in theory, and that is about where my positive opinions regarding testing end. I think it is important to hold teachers and curriculum leaders accountable and ensure that students are on track to continue progressing as their education continues. It is also important to break down the data derived from state test scores, and look at the groupings made... Standardized testing has become this high-stakes, high pressure environment for all people involved."

Even various students at Chandler High School agree. Sarah Gonzales, a junior and AP student, gives her opinion on standardized testing. She believes standardized testing is an inaccurate way to measure students skills and intelligence. Another student, Evan

Colihan, agrees, claiming that some students simply aren't good test takers.

Another fifth grade teacher, Ms. Diane states that standardized testing is neither accurate nor fair. "As stated before, standardized testing fails to take into account all of the outside factors that contribute to the development and demeanor of a child. On the day of the test, a student could have a multitude of factors playing a role in their attitude that could influence them while taking their test... with how much pressure is placed on standardized testing, my focus on a teacher has to switch to appease those that feel this is a proper way to assess students... I concede that this is my first year of teaching, however as a progressive minded teacher, I am hurt as to how much my students have missed out because I had to focus on preparing them for the upcoming test."

To conclude, these responses force administrators and students to wonder what's the point of standardized testing? From the span of February to May the only thing on students and teachers minds is standardized testing. We don't always get to hear what our teachers true thoughts are on these tests, and it was interesting to see both students and teachers opinions on the subject.

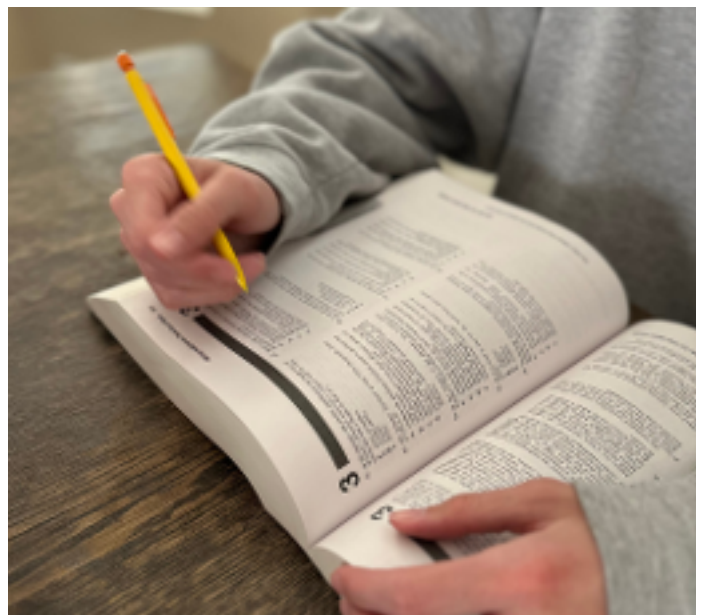


Photo by Makena Colihan

Prom 2023

Viva Las Vegas

When: Saturday, April 29, 2023

Time: 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Location: The Sunkist Warehouse
254 W. Broadway Rd, Mesa, AZ 85210

Tickets will be sold in the bookstore,
starting at \$65





food:

SUSTAINABLE WAYS TO SHOP

graphic by Kritika Mishra



Shopping at a farmers market is a great way to support local businesses and also get fresh and delicious produce and snacks! By shopping at farmers markets, individuals can do their part in strengthening their local economies, reduce carbon emissions, prevent food waste, and protect local lands. Arizona's own Gilbert and Chandler Farmers Markets are great options for anyone looking to explore the field of grocery shopping locally!

In the state of Arizona, all containers must be cleared of any remnants and grease before getting tossed. It is also important to note that plastic straws, plastic shopping bags, dry-cleaning bags, Ziploc bags, plastic films, Styrofoam, batteries, and lightbulbs are not recyclable.



Desert Refillery is a local Home Goods store that offers refills for hand soap, detergent, face wash, and more! They are dedicated to reducing the dependency on single use items—while also providing a variety of options for all customers.

5016 N Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ
Tues-Fri: 11am-6pm
Sat 9am-4pm
Sun 11am-3pm



clothing:

SUSTAINABLE WAYS TO SHOP



Shops like Goodwill, Buffalo Exchange, and Uptown Cheapskate offer Arizonians with items to build their closet without increased resource consumption. Online sites like GoodThreads, Poshmark, and Depop are some alternative, online-only options for thrifting that may lead to you finding some unique and vintage items to add to your wardrobe!

The main issue of thrifting for many is the size disparities. This can easily be solved by implementing tailoring. By either taking your clothing to the tailors or going at it yourself, you can easily make pieces suit your physique in the most flattering light. Tailoring is an inexpensive way to make items last longer in your closet, and saving it from getting tossed in a dump.

Redemption Market is an ethical boutique that partners with over 12+ organizations worldwide. They sell accessories, clothing, and home goods. They sell at the Merchantile in Scottsdale, and can also be found at the Downtown Phoenix Farmers Market.

3965 N. Brown Ave. Scottsdale, AZ.
85251

Open 7 Days a Week
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

The Ever-Changing System Behind Women's Clothing Sizes

By Makena Colihan

During my childhood, I never let the size of my clothes bother me. It wasn't until I matured and grew up that I became self-conscious about different sizes. The thought of increasing my shorts size was terrifying to me, causing unhealthy habits that took years to get over. As I've grown up, the stark difference between my old clothes and newer ones shocks me. I don't mean the quality of clothing, or the styles. I mean the sizing. Charts generated by the Wall Street Journal have revealed that women's sizes have changed dramatically over the past half century. Once upon a time, sizes were accurate to specific measurements, taking height and weight into consideration. However, that logic seems to have completely gone out the window, leaving women with confusing and inaccurate sizing.

The reason behind this weird, ever-changing system is called Vanity sizing. Vanity sizing is a marketing tactic that retailers and manufacturers use to sell more clothing. This system describes the process that retailers create larger clothing with smaller sizes, which has proven to be effective in getting women to buy more clothing. This has caused the standard of measurement to disappear in modern fashion. All measurements and scales are individualized and impacted by different retailers. This is the explanation for why women could be a size 8 at Tillys, and a size 4 at Target.

If we look back on past sizing methods, we can see how far we've come – and how completely off the rails sizing has now become. What was size 8 in 1958 is now labeled as size 00. What was size 12 in 1970 is now labeled as size 0. The proposed solution to this problem is universal sizing, which would force manufacturers to produce clothing by one specific set of guidelines and sizes. However, many people are concerned that universal sizing would fail to accommodate plus-size and petite women. In theory, universal sizing would be

beneficial to the average woman; however, we can't ignore the fact that it could leave out entire groups of women in favor of more conventional sizes. It's not hard to see the reasoning behind this. Each body is different so it would be difficult to reinvent a reimaged system where each individual size would accommodate everyone.

So universal sizing isn't a solution, and vanity sizing is becoming more of a pressing issue. Women are stuck with drawers full of different sizes, often leading to body dysmorphia. And who's feeding this evolution of ever-changing sizes? Fast fashion. If you're not aware, fast fashion is the industry that creates brands such as Shein, Zara, Romwe, Urban Outfitters, and tons of other popular brands. Fast fashion brands pride themselves on being able to keep up with trends, but they use cheap labor and poor material to do so. Women around the world argue that these brands are constantly producing items and trying to keep up with trends, leading to the support of wild variation of sizes, and that influence often spills over into other reputable retailers and stores who are in competition with them. When it comes to sizing with larger numbers, we may be led to believe we're bigger than we really are. Not only is this system messing with the fashion industry, it's messing with our perception of ourselves.

Continued onto next page...



Photo by Makena Colihan

Opinions

You'll be glad to know that when it comes to shopping, there can be a few ways around this system. Try on as many items as you need to with this method, and find the items that work on the basis of your own body, rather than a size written on the tag. Know how the items are cut, what they emphasize, what looks good (or doesn't) on your body, and let the perpetrators behind these mind games worry about the numbers instead. If you want an actual, concrete solution to this inaccurate system, I recommend finding your body measurements! Some unisex pants, such as Dickies, provide sizes based on the length of legs and waist. Shopping online can also be beneficial and far more accurate. Most online websites provide measurements based on hips, height, and other factors other womens' jeans companies don't consider.



Photo by Makena Colihan

The Double Edged Sword of Social Media Activism

By Kritika Mishra, Reporter

The year 2020 was momentous for multiple reasons. As an eighth grader, I was forced to stay at home and use my phone to keep me company. It was through apps like Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok that I witnessed the brutal killing of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, and also lived through one of the most nail-biting elections in my lifetime. Like many others, my eyes were opened to the many systematic issues Americans and the world were facing. The use of social media platforms during this time period fueled a resurgence of social media activism. Social media activism is a term used to describe the use of digital media such as Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and more to spread information and gain traction about social improvements ([Council on Foreign Affairs](#)). The act of using social media for political movements is not a new concept, but the increasing oversimplification of complex political topics has become a viable concern. Instagram accounts use gaudy graphics to entice many viewers, and although the account may have good intentions, their lack of citations and resources unintentionally result in a lack of momentum for the issue they are trying to raise awareness of. On the other hand, social media can serve as a useful tool in uniting people against a blatantly unjust cause, as seen in the rallying of people all

over the world following George Floyd's death in 2020, and the success of the #MeToo movement in 2018. The true problem with social media activism is not the topics being discussed—it's who is initiating the conversation, and what exactly they are doing about it. More often than not, the nuances of an event or problem flies over the heads of many social media users, who are eager to hastily repost anything with a hashtag. In order to fix the accepted idea of social media activism, it is imperative that audiences do their own research about a topic before sharing it with their followers, and raise the voices of people that are directly affected by these events.



Photo by Makena Colihan



Photo by Makena Colihan

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is undermining a historical moment.

By Gabby Miller

In my freshman year, my academic ambition grew as I excelled in my standard-level classes. I wanted to challenge myself in school by taking three honors classes in the following year. Even so, I was required to get approval by signature from my teachers, especially in English and Math. One teacher stated that I would flourish as an honors student, but another claimed that I may not be ready for the change. Ultimately, I maintained my commitment towards succeeding in honors classes, and I did not shy away from taking an AP class or two.

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program was created by the College Board to provide college-level courses to high schools across the nation. Each class gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credit by giving out a standardized exam in May each year. By receiving a successful score on an AP exam, students are not only granted permission to skip initial courses, but also the ability to stand out to colleges and universities around the country.

Chandler High senior Annie Payne has pursued many AP and Honors core classes throughout her high school career. She explains, “I find it more challenging for myself and I like how the classes are fast-paced and more advanced. I like to be around people who have the same drive as me.” Annie believes that being an AP student will not only benefit her education, but it may also prepare for face real-world challenges as a young adult.

On February 1, 2023, or the first day of Black History Month, the College Board delivered the curriculum framework for the new AP African

American Studies course. According to College Board Communications, “AP African American Studies is an interdisciplinary course that draws from a variety of fields—history, literature, the arts, geography, science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans... this is a course that offers direct engagement with evidence and events.”

A month before the release, Republican Governor of Florida Ron DeSantis sent a letter to the College Board Florida Partnership, expressing his extreme distaste towards the course proposal. His administration argued that the content “is inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value.” In addition, the Florida Department of Education explicitly stated that it does not want the AP course to be taught at any public high schools in the state of Florida.

This course release will mark the first high school class that demands a complex understanding of African American history and culture, and AP African American Studies should not be treated with such hesitancy. It is unfair that Florida officials are blocking a rigorously-formed curriculum from their AP students. Young scholars should not hold back from pursuing their subjects of interest. Despite the letter’s claims, the official framework was developed by over three hundred African American Studies professors and various high school teachers in this country. Also, it was not specified in which state law was being violated. Clearly, the political stance of DeSantis’ administration is intruding on Florida’s public education and censoring a historical moment.

Rating Chandler Boba Tea Shops!

By Guest Writer, Sophia Medal

Everyone knows that across the street from our campus in Downtown Chandler, there is a boba shop known as ShareTea, and this shop is well loved by our Chandler High School student body. It's local, it's delicious, and it's a popular spot in Downtown Chandler. However, while that shop may be fun to visit now and then, doesn't drinking from the same place over and over again get old, especially when there are more local boba shops? The Chandler area is home to many boba shops that will be love at first sip that all boba tea lovers should try out.

One that may be familiar to many students on this campus is Rapha Tea. The Asian Student Union has brought them to our campus many times, but they have a broad and savory menu beyond the items brought to our campus. This shop takes classic drinks and uses interesting flavors to make drinks unique to their location, such as their rose-lychee butterfly tea. In addition, they also have quite the reputation in the Chandler area for



providing refreshing drinks to local residents. Freshman student Lillyanna Salinas claims that their passion fruit tea is "heaven sent". You can find this shop on 5025 S Gilbert Road.

Another lesser known Chandler gem is Hi-5-Tea, located on 225 W Warner Road. With a fruity addition to traditional milk and fruit teas, Hi-5-Tea is an innovative tea house that provides delicious drinks for anyone's palate. Furthermore, if you come to this sweet sweet cafe with an appetite, then you can head right next door to their secondary shop, Hi-5-Sushi, which provides a classic and delectable array of sushi to pair with your boba as well. Junior student Isabelle Medal frequents this area and guarantees that it'll become a new favorite for anyone willing to try it. This hidden treasure in Chandler is worth a try from any lover of sweet boba tea and delicious sushi.



Photo featuring Sophia Medal

Lastly, on your next shopping spree, you can stop by Boba Tea Company, which is located inside the Chandler Fashion Center. With romantically named drinks, it's impossible to avoid falling in love with their broad menu. Their menu is portioned into six different sections, each section offering a new variety of teas, ranging from milk to fruit. It's the perfect pick-me-up when you're out shopping at the Chandler Fashion Center. Whether you find your new favorite on the Naughtea menu or the Flirtea menu, this place is a must for people wanting to branch out to new drinks.

To conclude, our very own city of Chandler is home to many boba shops that are definitely worth a try. Whether it's your first time trying this delectable drink, or whether you enjoy it frequently, these three shops should be on your list of places to visit sometime in the near future.

BOBA TEA COMPANY



Chandler
Fashion Center
mall!

RAPHA TEA!

1900 W
Chandler
Blvd. Ste 17



HI-5-TEA

225 W
Warner Rd!

SuperBowl LVII: A Football Fan's Favorite Drama

By Tyler Irwin

As the players left their locker rooms, the stadium lights and cheering fans washed over them with feelings of anxiety, excitement and pressure. They knew this was it, SuperBowl LVII. This year's game was a close one, with the final score ending at 38-35 with a Chiefs victory over the Philadelphia Eagles. On February 12th every year, the NFL chooses a state to host the game depending on the stadium's capacity and if the stadium can accommodate the thousands of fans that attend each year. This year it was hosted at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona where a new turf was laid in preparation for the game. The two teams entering the game were the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs. The newly developed grass, Tahoma 31, was created by Oklahoma State University. The new grass had its problems with its traction and grip which some claim caused players to miss plays.

A video posted to Twitter by Arye Pulli showed Eagles' kicker Jake Elliott slipping while making a kickoff. Many Eagles players shared their thoughts about the field with [Yahoo Sports](#) after the game. "I'm not going to lie, it's the worst field I ever played on," stated Haason Reddick, an Eagles defensive end. Another player Jordan Mailata, an offensive tackle, shared his thoughts: "Definitely subpar, for sure...But both teams had to play on it."

Rihanna's halftime performance was one of the longest performances in NFL history, lasting 29 minutes. This was almost twice as long as Justin Timberlake's show in 2018, which only lasted 14 minutes. Nevertheless, the performance was entertaining, with floating platforms and according to [AS News](#), there were over 800 people that helped in her performance including the 80 backup dancers that accompanied her on the aerial platforms.

The second half of the big game wasn't totally controversy free as the Chiefs' superstar QB Patrick Mahomes returned for the second half moving seemingly as if his ankle injury didn't occur in the previous half. After final whistle, Mahomes raised the Vince Lombardi Trophy declaring the Chiefs the rightful champions of the NFL once again. However, in the following days, a viral tweet from a "S_CharlesNFL" account stated "#BREAKING: Chiefs Super Bowl legitimacy put on hold as NFL plans to launch an investigation on possible

PED use by Patrick Mahomes during halftime. Sources confirm his rapid postgame drug test came back POSITIVE and if guilty the Chiefs could be stripped of the win." The two million viewed tweet accused Mahomes of using PEDs (Performance Enhancing drugs) which are banned in the NFL as they give an unfair advantage to the players.

Another staple from the Super Bowl are the commercials that go for seven million dollars for 30 seconds. With companies such as Doritos, Amazon, PopCorners and Disney, these commercials can be as memorable as the game itself. However, streaming company Tubi found themselves in some hot water after the company's ad aired, which was a "prank" where the on-screen image seemed to switch from the game to the Tubi selection screen. Some families around the nation thought the ad was a funny one; according to Business Insider, one TikTok user wrote under a viral video, "We were all yelling to change it back when we don't even have Tubi." Unfortunately, not all viewers took this lighthearted joke as easily; a now-deleted Reddit post drew much attention which read, "My boyfriend thought I was the one changing the channel and began screaming at me violently, calling me things I don't even want to write down." Along with this account of verbal abuse, the news source Narcity reported that the same boyfriend punched a hole in the wall and took some time to calm before realizing the ad was simply a prank by the streaming service. Super Bowl LXVII will go down in history as a close game on the football field, but will also be infamous for its outside controversies.



Photo from AZFamily.com

MLB's Highly Anticipated Spring Training is Underway

By Lexi Moreno

Skies are clear, flowers blossom, and the sun shines nationwide as Major League Baseball teams begin spring training! Spring training is the preseason in Major League Baseball, containing a series of exhibitions and practices preceding the upcoming season, allowing new rosters and tryouts to commence. Teams train in Arizona and Florida, organized into the Grapefruit or Cactus League.

One of the biggest storylines during Spring Training this year was the emergence of new talent. Many teams took the opportunity to give their young prospects a chance to shine, and several players made a strong impression on coaches and fans alike. Anthony Volpe is a highly-touted prospect in the New York Yankees organization. He is known for his outstanding defensive skills at shortstop, ability to hit for power, and average at the plate. Following the conclusion of training, Volpe will make his big league debut for the Yankees on opening day, donning No. 11.

Players and coaches took Spring Training as an opportunity to work on team chemistry and strategies. One team featuring new rotations is the Chicago Cubs, adding Hayden Wesneski to their pitching rotation. Throughout the preseason, the Cubs have shown their improved pitching firepower. This may possibly lead to a playoff appearance, something the team has not seen since 2020.



Photos by Lexi Moreno

With the regular season set to begin on March 30th, baseball fans can look forward to another exciting and competitive year of America's favorite pastime. Opening Day represents a fresh start for all 30 teams from the first pitch to the final out and a chance to set the tone for the rest of the year. Whether you're a die-hard fan or a casual observer, there's nothing quite like the excitement and anticipation that comes with the start of a new MLB season.



Meet CHS Spring Athletes!

By Kate Rogers

Photos courtesy of Autumn Saavedra, Kyle Derosier, Taylor Brooks, Mattix Meade

Autumn Saavedra is a sophomore at Chandler High who plays as a tight end and running back for the Girls Flag Football team. Autumn says, "I've been playing flag football since I was in 5th grade in the GYFL league on both all girls teams and coed teams. I decided to play flag football for the school because I've always known I wanted to play sports in high school and when I saw that Chandler was going to have Girls Flag Football I knew I had to sign up." The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) Executive Board officially voted to approve girls flag football as a sanctioned sport in December of 2022. That means an official regular season, playoffs, and a state championship for participating schools. Autumn says, "I love playing flag football because of how you are able to grow as a player and also being able to have a supportive team that you can trust to help you through good and bad games." She hopes that flag football will continue to grow at Chandler and that more girls get involved with it.



Junior Kyle Derosier plays on the Boys Tennis team as the number one singles player and half of the first-ranked doubles pair. Derosier says he got into tennis at a young age: "When I was little my mom took me to a court and we played and I had a great time. After that I asked my mom to put me into lessons and she never did. When I started 7th grade I met some friends and they told me about the tennis program there. So I begged my parents and they agreed saying how they meant to put me in lessons years before." Kyle has played a number of sports throughout his life, but tennis has always been his favorite. He says, "I love the comradeship that comes with practices and the competition of playing. I love how there is always a goal in the sports and something to always improve on. I love the environment."



Eleventh grader Taylor Brooks is a member of the Track and Field team. She's been running track since she was young and loves it because she loves to win. Brooks has been running for 10 years and plans to continue after graduation. She describes her experience as an athlete, saying, "It's an amazing experience, and it's something I look forward to every day." Taylor competes in the 100 and 200 meter dash and is one of the top competitors for Chandler. She says, "I love competing at Chandler because I get to compete at a higher level." Taylor says that what makes her special as an athlete is "my work ethic and training outside of practice."



Senior Mattix Meade plays as a catcher for the Chandler Varsity Baseball team. He's been playing baseball since he was four and is a legacy student-athlete; his dad attended Chandler and played as a catcher as well, so it was only natural for Meade to follow in his footsteps. Mattix says, "I love how competitive [baseball] is." Chandler is one of the best teams in Arizona, and his favorite thing about playing at CHS is "playing where my dad played, but better!" Mattix plans to continue with baseball and play at Phoenix College after graduation. His ability to motivate and lead fellow teammates is what sets him apart from others as an athlete and person. Mattix says he's learned a lot from his sport, but the thing that stuck the most was "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."



What to do this summer in Arizona

Welcome Summer 2023

- VISIT OASIS WATERPARK AT ARIZONA GRAND, PHOENIX AZ
- KAYAKING ON TEMPE TOWN LAKE, TEMPE AZ
- OFF-ROADING WITH ATV TOURS, PHOENIX AZ
- SIX FLAGS HURRICANE HARBOR, GLENDALE AZ
- DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN, SCOTTSDALE AZ
- TUBING AT THE SALT RIVER, MESA AZ



Rain World: Brilliant Yet Unnoticed

by Angela Carlton

Originally released March 28, 2017, Rain World is a 2D-style, survival platform game. It is primarily a singleplayer game, though the base game features a PvP mode, while the recently released DLC, Rain World: Downpour, introduces a Co-op mode. In Rain World, you play as an odd little creature known as a slugcat. The base game features three different slugcats; Monk, Survivor, and Hunter. These three slugcats represent the Easy, Normal, and Hard game difficulties, respectively.

The pixelated visuals of Rain World have a rather post-apocalyptic feeling to it. The landscape is an absolute mess, which also presents the platforming part of the game, and navigating a massive world as a tiny creature is no simple task. Especially when the game forcefully limits what a player is able to get done based solely on their skill. The player must do as much as they can before hiding away from the primary environmental threat that gives the game its name: the rain. It may not sound threatening at first, but this rain comes down as torrential downpours that can kill a player either by crushing them under its terrible force or drowning them as water swiftly fills enclosed rooms.



The gameplay itself simulates what it's like to be a tiny, near insignificant creature in a broken ecosystem, where large predators lurk every corner and easy food is limited. The player has no idea when danger may appear, nor where it may come from. The only indicator of an incoming hazard is the cleverly crafted threat music, which becomes increasingly more complex depending on the threat level. When faced with a threat, the player's only choices are to run or fight. Neither option is easy, as more threats can easily pop up at any moment, joining the fight/chase.

Like most other games, Rain World punishes the player for dying, but in a somewhat different way. Karma is a mechanic in the game that is necessary to complete all campaigns in the base game, and making significant progress in others. Every time the player dies, they lose a point of karma. There are ways to regain karma, as well as a way to prevent losing karma upon death, but they aren't entirely easy.

Rain World is indeed quite the difficult game, renowned for being cruel and unforgiving. But that's just part of what makes it so incredible. It's unpredictable and the AI is incredibly well-developed. It even encourages the player to be a little creative in order to effectively get around. For anyone interested in a little challenge, I highly recommend checking out Rain World for yourself. Rain World itself is available on Steam for \$24.99, as well as on the PS4 and the Nintendo Switch for \$19.99. The DLC, Rain World: Downpour, is currently only available on Steam for an additional \$14.99. The release date for the console versions of Rain World: Downpour is currently unknown.

Anastasia: The Musical Dazzles Audiences

by Kate Rogers

Photo by Kate Rogers



Last month, on the second, third, and fourth of March, Chandler High Theater took to the stage for their annual spring musical with their rendition of *Anastasia: The Musical*. Starring senior Katie Stone as Anastasia, and junior Bennett Smith as Dmitry, *Anastasia* is based on the 1997 animated Disney film of the same name. The musical adapts the legend of Grand Duchess Anastasia Nikolaevna Romanov of Russia, who legend says could have escaped the execution of her family.

Also starring seniors Spencer Rich and Amaya Cooks as Count Vlad Popov and Countess Lilly Malevsky-Malevitch with junior Gabriel Celis as Deputy Commissioner Gleb Vaganov, this production of *Anastasia* is possibly one of the best things to come out of the Chandler High Theater. Smith said of the show, "*Anastasia* is a very difficult musical, requiring lots of choreography and technical skills that aren't typically possible for high school productions, so it really is a once in a lifetime opportunity for everyone involved."

I was lucky enough to see the performance twice, on their second and third showing, and the production value was comparable to that of a professional company performance.

The show broke records with the involvement of Chandler High's orchestra, dance team, and theater programs all working together to put on the show.

Bennett and Katie also played the lead roles in last year's musical *Legally Blonde* as love interests Emmett and Elle. Their recasting as leads in this show only goes to prove the utter star quality that the two have. Conducting themselves with total grace and professionalism, even when lead Spencer Rich suffered an injury on the second night and had to have his part filled by Chandler alum Casey Likes, the two put on a performance deserving of recognition.

They've acted together in outside shows before, which only enhances the chemistry that they present on stage. It's an undeniable fact that these two have bright showbiz futures ahead of them.

As Stone graduates this year, the theater certainly has big shoes to fill. With a wonderful production behind them and many more to come, I can't wait to see what comes next for CHS Theater.

Photo by Kate Rogers



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Spring Playlist !

