

The Wolf Howl



Chandler High School || October 2024

Despite recent losses, Chandler Football continues strong start

by Peyton Postovit, Reporter



Photo by Peyton Postovit

Chandler Football is off to a strong start this season with a 3-2 record, despite their recent loss to Liberty High. Let's take a look at a recap of the 2024-2025 season so far.

After September 13th's confident 42 to 12 victory at Westwood High School, cementing a 3-0 start to the regular season, the Chandler Wolves had a promising opening this fall season.

Although Chandler managed a 27-18 victory against the Cesar Chavez Champions in the season opener on August 29 at Austin Field, some fans and players expressed disappointment at the Wolves' "slow" win and overall performance in their first home game. However, the Wolves proved their critics wrong the following

week by taming the Mountain Ridge Mountain Lions with a stunning 63-3 victory at home over the Glendale team on September 5 and another win last month in Mesa.

Chandler has an outstanding lineup of players starting this season, such as senior middle linebacker Aidan Browder, who led the team in tackles per game (9.7 Tckl/ g) and sacks (2.0 SAK), as well as running back Tristan Halsana, senior, leading in rushing yards per game (156.7 y/g) and total number of touchdowns (7) for the season. Other notable players include senior wide receiver Carter Ochoa, who led the team in receiving yards (68.7 y/g) and senior defensive back Scooby Bradley, who held bragging rights for the Wolves' only

interception up to that point. With many up-and-coming players under the mentorship of this strong senior class and the coaching team, the Wolves continue to hope for a relatively steady path to the playoffs this year.

From the bleachers, fans are just as pumped up about the football season as the players. Junior Moser, a CHS senior, was full of enthusiasm after the victory against Mountain View: "The team looks strong and ready for a spectacular season. I can't wait to show my support for the home team!"

With a bright season ahead, fans and players can expect to witness another stunning year of Chandler football.

New phone policies spark debate among students and staff

by Ipshita Chowdhury, Reporter

In a world where smartphones are now as essential as textbooks, the debate over banning phones in schools is heating up. With Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne pushing for a statewide ban on cell phones in classrooms, both students and teachers at Chandler High are weighing in on the issue—and they're not always seeing eye-to-eye.

Horne believes phones are a distraction, lowering student performance. He cited research showing teens receive over 200 notifications a day, many during school hours. "Imagine being a teacher trying to compete with a phone for a student's attention," Horne said in a news conference on August 22. "It's outrageous and unacceptable" (AZFamily).

Teachers like Caroline Sheridan agree that phones can be distracting. "Phones pull students away from meaningful interactions," said Sheridan, who teaches Criminal Justice and Honors English 10. "Without their phones, students are more likely to engage in group discussions and cooperative learning." For Sheridan, it's about more than just academics; she feels phones disrupt the opportunity for students to take a mental break from the constant need to stay online.

But not everyone shares Ms. Sheridan's view. CHS junior Lily Cash, like many students, finds the idea of a potential phone ban frustrating. "I need my phone most when I'm not in class.

If I leave it in a locker and something happens, how am I supposed to communicate?" she asked. Cash emphasized the importance of having her phone for safety, particularly in light of the increasing concerns over school violence. "There's a lot of danger surrounding schools," Cash said. "I wouldn't feel safe without a way to communicate in an emergency."

Cash also noted that students, especially those with extracurricular activities, need to be able to manage their schedules. "I often need to inform my parents of changes, and a quick conversation during a 7-minute passing period just isn't enough," she explained.

So where does the solution lie? Both sides of the debate present valid points. Phones can certainly distract from learning, but they're also critical for communication and safety in today's world. Rather than a complete ban, Cash suggests a compromise: "Keep phones in backpacks or pockets unless absolutely necessary. Most students respect that and aren't constantly on their phones."

As schools across the state and country consider stricter phone policies, it's clear that there's no one-size-fits-all solution. The challenge is finding a balance between minimizing distractions and ensuring students stay connected when it matters most. One thing is certain—whether for focus or safety, the debate over phones in schools is far from over.

Navajo Nation strengthens uranium ban to protect future

by Pon Peterson and Nick Hernandez Romero, Reporters

On July 31, 2024, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren issued a six-month ban on the transport of any radioactive material across all tribal lands.

The Navajo Nation has long dealt with the devastating consequences of uranium mining on its land (ABC News). Decades of mining in the mid-20th century left be-

hind a legacy of environmental contamination and severe health issues for many Navajo people, including higher rates of cancer and respiratory illness. By the late 1960s, uranium mining had declined, but the damage was done. Radioactive waste contaminated the land, damaging Navajo people's health and traditional

cultural practices. In 2005, the Navajo Nation banned uranium mining on tribal lands to protect their health, environment, and cultural heritage of the community (Brugge and Goble).

Kayana Tsosie is a senior at Camelback High School and the president of her school's Native American Club. She is

also a member of Future Inspired Native American Leaders (F.I.N.A.L.) Youth Council. She explained why uranium mining is particularly concerning for her community: "The land is very sacred to us. Something like uranium will affect the land and our health even though it's not affecting you."

Sierra "C.C." Luna, a junior at Xavier College Preparatory, and vice president of F.I.N.A.L. Youth Council, explained, "When miners on the Navajo nation were granted the job to mine, they had no idea of the harms that uranium would do on them within their organs."

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Navajo Nation uranium ban, cont.

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Decades after the mines were closed, many Navajo families continue to live in areas with contaminated soil and water. This exposure has led to an increase in birth defects, miscarriages, and a range of long-term health issues in the population (Nygren). Luna continued, "They were lied to. They were deceived, saying, 'Oh, that isn't going to harm you. This is just mining.' No. My grandpa passed away two years ago due to this uranium radiation... and now I'm personally affected."

Even after the mines were closed, uranium was still transported through Navajo Nation land for decades. Truck drivers carry uranium materials across the land, further polluting the environment and exposing residents to additional risk. Dust from the uranium settles on the land, contaminating water sources and the air (Salt Lake Tribune).

The Navajo people's battle with uranium contamination is not only a public health crisis, but also a fight for environmental justice. Sara Chee, another member of F.I.N.A.L Youth Council and a senior at Metropolitan Art Institute, considers this not just a local issue, but a matter of environmental justice and human rights. She believes that students have the power and responsibility to be a part of the solution.

"If the uranium wipes out our culture and tradition, then we are really colonized," Chee claims. "We are still here, and we will not stop fighting for our land."

CHS Theater's 'Lost Girl' brings moving, memorable performances to Bogle Theater stage

by Sergio Patron and Morrissey Cervantes, Reporters

Chandler High School Theater's annual fall play, *Lost Girl*, offered audiences an intriguing twist on a classic tale, performed at the Chandler Center for the Arts' Bogle Theater on September 11-13, 2024.

Lost Girl, a play by Kimberly Belflower, follows the story of Wendy Darling, one-time companion of everyone's favorite flying boy, Peter Pan. With the help of other lost boys and lost girls, Wendy figures out life after Peter and after Neverland, while also dealing with "real world" problems like her complicated health and relationships. In Chandler High School's production, the cast portrayed

wonderful and sincere performances, displaying emotions that sparked across the theater. The crew also did a phenomenal job with the costumes that felt perfectly matched to the characters on stage.

Hailey Laidig, who played the central character Wendy Darling, said Belflower's powerful story was emotionally moving for her and many of the cast and crew. "It's a really emotional time for a lot of us," said Laidig. "It's really helped me heal."

Zaire Brown, who portrayed Peter Pan, was also grateful for an experienced and dedicated director in CHS Drama teacher, Ms. Stephanie Likes. "The play

was really insane. You could write the greatest thing on earth, but without the directors to actually put it on stage... You have to give all the credits to Ms. Likes," Brown insisted.

Costume manager Tori Boyd expressed fondness for her fellow cast and crew, saying they were "so fun and so sweet, and really nice."

Overall, *Lost Girl* was a memorable and moving experience. We are grateful for being able to watch this performance and see a wonderful story being acted out in such a good way by talented actors and crew.

The Wolf Howl's favorite movies for the fall

by Lily Eaton and Kiley Jacobson, Editors

The fall season is quickly approaching, and people couldn't be happier. It's time to pull out the decorations from storage, make festive recipes, and celebrate holidays.

For many, a big part of the holiday season is watching movies, especially films that give off that warm, cozy, holiday feeling. For many of us, these movies give such a nostalgic feeling, as we watched these movies with our families as children, making traditions for years to come.

Here at *The Wolf Howl* Newspaper, we have many favorite festive and fall-themed movies, both cozy and spooky! Some of our favorites

include *The Sound of Music*, *Friday the Thirteenth*, *Beetlejuice*, and *Halloweentown*. We think watching your favorite fall season movies is the best way to transition out of summer and get into the holiday spirit.

Local and national movie theater chains are showing re-runs of classic and crowd-pleasing favorites on their big screens. Cinemark Theaters recently offered a marathon of all eight *Harry Potter* movies from August 26 to September 1 in their theaters across the country. While many movies may be streaming digitally now, theaters are a fun throwback to do with your friends and family. Horror fans can

catch spooky favorites like *Paranormal Activity* and *Five Nights at Freddy's* during September and October as part of AMC Theater's Blumfest 2024 event, while fans of anime or Hayao Miyazaki can check out Studio Ghibli Fest 2024, showing at local AMC, Cinemark, and Regal Theatres now through the end of the year.

With our weather slowly inching toward the eighties, the fall season is quickly approaching, and we can't wait! In the meantime, you'll find us curled up on our couches, wishing for crunchy leaves, crisp nights, and maybe even a spooky thrill or two.

What to expect for fall fashion

by Bella Dana, Editor-in-Chief

For fashionistas, autumn is a great season to dress for. Fashion patterns such as leopard print or Houndstooth are commonly incorporated into fall-season clothing, and according to Vogue and YouTube channel ThanksToFashion, we can expect to see many previously popular fall-forward fashions returning this year.

Of course, leopard print and Houndstooth will return for the fall in different styles and pairings. Expect to see Houndstooth paired with more vintage clothing items. Writing for Vogue, Talia Abbas predicts leopard print will be popular for dresses, scarves, belts, and shoes for all ages. No longer just for your grandmother or rebel aunt, there are Houndstooth and leopard-print shirts, skirts, and shorts targeted at teenagers at malls and stores such as Cotton: ON. For many women, this is a great start to the fall season.

Another trend we can see coming soon is oversized suits, oversized or draped tops, and trench coats. Some of the main colors of these pieces of clothing will be dark brown, white, black, red, gray, and tan to reflect the colors of autumn. Trench coats are a timeless classic, but oversized versions are particularly trendy this year. This fall, experts expect to see more oversized clothing in fashion, especially around school.

According to the YouTube channel ThanksToFashion, heavy, layering jackets will come back this fall. In her video, "Top Key Looks for Autumn Trends 2024," fashion vlogger Mahshid models clothing that is oversized and eye-catching. One fun tip she shares is to accessorize a simple fall handbag (hers is a plain dark green suede) with a cool-weather accessory like a scarf or even a pair of gloves to add style and personality.

Riely Foerst, a senior at Chandler High, is a fashion enthusiast who also shares her modeling on Instagram (@riely.foerst). Every fall, Riely looks



forward to fashion trends centered around bell bottoms, leopard print, and haute couture, as she loves "the creative input fashion in the fall has." While her overall favorite season is summer because of the colorful decisions she can make with her photoshoots, fall is a close second because of the style of haute couture and the fashion creativity she sees all around campus. Every Sunday, Riely takes "about two hours to plan outfits around trends in high fashion" with the help of her mom, CHS World Languages teacher, Dr. Angelika Foerst. Even at school, Riely tries her best to stand out by wearing well-fitted clothes that show off her height. Riely often scours the internet and follows fellow fashionistas for advice, observing trends for the season which help inspire her own fashion choices.

This year is certainly a good change of pace for those in the fashion world. New yet old trends are emerging and booming all over. While it is fun to follow trends, it is crucial to add your personal touches to make fashion trends your own style.

Choir Club's Open Mic event amplifies student voices

by Tristan Ortega, Reporter

Choir Club hosted their first Open Mic event of the 2024-2025 school year on Wednesday, August 29, 2024, in the Jones Student Union during both lunches.

Choir Club's Open Mic is a recurring set of performances starring all kinds of musical artists here in the CHS community. Anyone, whether it be an instrumentalist, a singer, or any kind of artist in-between can play or sing their hearts out to an audience of fellow students. In the first event of the season, the lineup featured an enthralling mix of performances of varying genres and tones. From pensive and smooth R&B to the sharp and thrilling shrills of metal, these tunes did not disappoint.

One performer, Zaire Brown, chose to cover John Legend's song "Nervous". Relaxing in the courtyard after his performance, Brown explained his song choice: "It was my favorite song at the moment. For some reason, it just connected with me." Brown has lived his whole life engrossed in music, whether it be singing along to his favorite tunes or becoming immersed within the soulful melody of his church's choir. But "Nervous" had struck a chord within him, igniting the smoldering flares of his passion to sing into a blaze. When Brown heard about this Open Mic event over the daily announcements, he jumped at the opportunity to sing for an audience. And sing he did, captivating the JSU's attendees with his tranquil and wistful tone. After receiving a reverberating

round of applause, Brown stuck around to see the rest of the performances through. "I wanna say that everyone I saw and heard at the performance was extremely talented," Brown said. "People at Chandler High are exceptional. They just gotta keep doing what they're doing."

It was only through the hard work of Choir Club members like Dominic Domenico that the event was held at all. Domenico explained that he found himself in Choir Club after being involved in many of CHS' musical classes and clubs throughout his entire high school career: "[I] wanted to get better at singing." Domenico and his fellow performers wanted to give students on campus a space to perform, he explained, sitting at a keyboard after the performances had finished. "We had [an Open Mic] last year in December," Domenico recalled, "and we saw the value in it. But it didn't work out as much as we planned, so we fine-tuned some things and restarted it." The piano's charming melody echoed through the Jones Student Union as Domenico glanced at the array of musical instruments beside him. He smiled from ear to ear, laughing: "It was really good, I did not expect people to sing as much as they did."

Choir Club hopes to hold more Open Mic events throughout the year, serving not only as an entertaining lunchtime concert for visitors to the JSU, but as an opportunity for all of Chandler High's musical performers to present their talents.



Club Spotlight: Hiking Club explores the outdoors together

by Nick Hernandez Romero and Emiliano Mejia

Chandler High School's Hiking Club is an excellent way for athletes and nature enthusiasts to get involved in our school community.

Despite starting with a small group of ten, the Hiking Club is rapidly expanding this year, offering more opportunities for new members to join and contribute.

Mr. Croswhite, the sponsor of the Hiking Club, is the perfect fit for his role. He loves exercising, is friendly, and has a lot of confidence when hiking. The club leaders, Sofia Coria and Logan Chavez, are great people to contact with questions. They are always looking for new members, as hikes are much more fun when large groups are involved. "It's fun to go on hikes with bigger groups [with] more people to talk to," said Sofia. Although the club may be small for now, that doesn't stop this club from enjoying the outdoors together.

Club members usually go hiking on Sunday mornings. On an average hike, they travel around two miles of hiking, sometimes more.

The Hiking Club, which runs from October to April, is open to all. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or just starting out, you're welcome to join their Sunday morning hikes. Overall, the Hiking Club is a fantastic source of exercise and an excellent opportunity to meet new people. As Mr. Croswhite said, "If my 65-year-old grandmother can hike, you can too!"



Sofia Coria, Logan Chavez, and Aurora Lambson, Juniors

Club Spotlight: Black Student Union creates home for connection, celebration

by Ipshita Chowdhury and Morrissey Cervantes, Reporters

At a school as large as Chandler High, finding a sense of belonging can be a challenge. That's where the Black Student Union (BSU) comes in—a club dedicated to creating a close-knit community for students of color while celebrating the mix of backgrounds within the community. "BSU was established to bring people alike together. While we're alike in color, there are still many differences we can celebrate, helping us feel accepted in a diverse school like Chandler," said Karis Hurd, junior.

BSU is more than just a club—it's a safe space where students bond over shared experiences, organize events, and practice for their step team performances. For Dior Fall, another junior, joining BSU was about finding her "home" at Chandler. "Just the idea of being able to be around people that look like me and have been through experiences like me—I just wanted to find a home in this school," she explained. One of the most memorable

events BSU hosts is the annual "Dollar to Dunk" fundraiser. Dior described it as a highlight of the year: "Every year around the fourth quarter when it's really hot, students can pay a dollar to dunk a bucket of water over their favorite teacher. It's always a fun event." Beyond fundraising, BSU's presence can be felt school-wide, from their fiery performances at the winter and unity assemblies to their participation in the homecoming parade.

Reflecting on her first year at Chandler, Karis shared how BSU drew her in during the club fair: "I didn't know anyone at the school since I didn't go to a Chandler middle school. When I saw BSU at the club fair, their energy and sense of community really moved me. I didn't grow up with many Black students in my classes, so seeing all these people who looked like me together made me want to join."

BSU's influence extends beyond its members, contributing to a more

inclusive and welcoming environment at Chandler High. They engage the broader student body in meaningful ways, like their upcoming 90s-themed Skateland event, where they invite everyone to join in the fun.

For those considering joining BSU, Dior had some advice: "I was really scared to join BSU, but now it's my favorite club." Karis chimed in, adding, "Also join step team because it's going to be fun and it keeps you fit."

If you're interested in joining or learning more, BSU meets after school weekly in room M102. Follow their Instagram @chandlerbsu for updates on meetings, events, and how you can become part of this vibrant community. Whether you're looking to connect, support, or simply celebrate, BSU welcomes everyone with open arms.



Club Spotlight: Fellowship of Christian Athletes brings faith, athletics together

by Peyton Postovit and Pon Peterson, Reporters

Chandler High School is home to many diverse and interesting clubs, with a shining example of that being the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or FCA for short. FCA is sponsored by Mr. Daniel Vander Valk, who is one of the baseball coaches for Chandler High. FCA meets every other Thursday at 6:30am in the lobby of the Payne Gym.

Recently, we had the pleasure of interviewing two of their members, DJ Vander Valk, Jr. and Yale Johnson, to get an inside look at the FCA. Yale Johnson is a senior and a varsity baseball player, as well as an active member of the student body. DJ Vander Valk, Jr. is a junior and a member of the baseball team who played for JV last year. Both DJ and Yale were members of FCA last year and now serve as FCA youth leaders. When asked why they joined, DJ told us, "My love of God and athletics guided my choice to join." Yale added that "spreading an important message to a great community" is what motivates him.

FCA often features guest speakers at their meetings, primarily athletes with faith-based backgrounds. During the meetings, members engage in athletic

activities, followed by a time of reflection on religion, typically led by the guest speakers.

DJ explained that the club supports current and new members by "showing up for them and giving them support in a godly way." Members of FCA often attend Chandler High's sporting events to show their support for fellow members and offer guidance on balancing academic, athletic, and religious lives. DJ and Yale both said that FCA helped them put sports and school into a larger perspective. DJ said, "I feel like I can be more open to sharing my faith with others and carrying out my life in a Godly manner." Yale added, "I have an understanding thanks to FCA that when I step out on the field, I'm not doing it for myself or others, but for the glory of God. I've learned to grow my connection to God through the FCA."

FCA is always accepting new members and invites everyone to join, regardless of whether you consider yourself an athlete or whatever your faith. "The only requirement is to be open to learning," Yale said.

For more information, you can

find them on Instagram @chandlerhighfca or drop by one of their meetings filled with fun, faith, and fellowship every other Thursday. "Stop by and say hi, grab a donut, and learn how to grow your relationship with God," said DJ. He and Yale hope to see you there!



Yale Johnson, Senior



CHS Swim and Dive is ready to out-work the competition

by Seth Welch and Emiliano Mejia, Reporters



We all know that swimming can help to keep you healthy, but did you know it especially strengthens your heart and lungs? Chandler High School's Swim and Dive team is strong, ready to compete, and looking toward their future goals.

CHS junior Tate Kelly believes that Swim is the most fun sport Chandler has to offer. "Swim runs throughout my family, and all my siblings swim as well," Kelly said. Tate considers his older brother Lucas, who competed at

the Arizona state championships several years ago, as his main inspiration. Tate also idolizes former Olympian Michael Phelps as someone he looks up to.

Bryan Crane, head Swim and Dive coach, has seen fantastic improvement from the start of the season to now. Coach Crane said this season's new athletes are already learning backstroke and freestyle and that the new freshmen swimmers are perfectly filling the shoes of last year's class of 2024 senior graduates.

"I think we're going to finish the season stronger than we finished last year," Crane predicted. Coach Crane said his hardest challenge this season is building a culture of hard work and consistent attendance. Beyond improving both individual and team performance, Crane has made moving the team up in city rankings a goal for the year. The Chandler Swim Team's season is looking up, and we can't wait to see what they have in store.



Girls' freshman tennis team starts the year with a smash

by Abby Ogles, Reporter

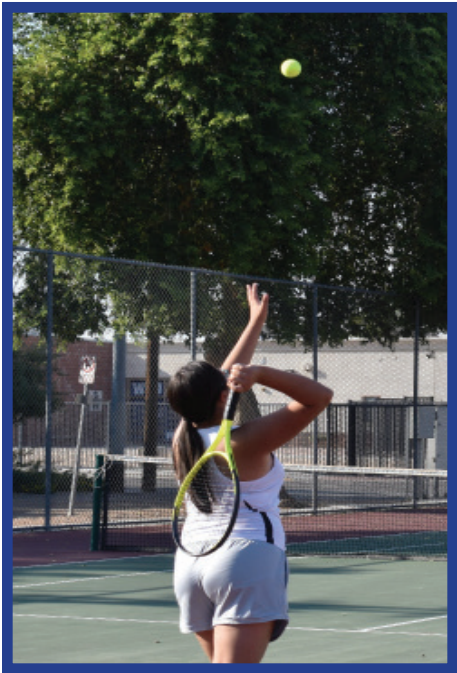
Freshman Tennis season is right around the corner, and with matches starting in September, the Chandler High Freshman Girls' season is sure to be a smash. Head Coach Abran Olivas and Assistant Coach Elijah Olivas were eager to talk about the team's prospects for this season. Embarking on his eighth year coaching Girls' Tennis, Coach Olivas was enthusiastic about this new team: "This new batch of freshmen is the best we've had yet. So many have come out to learn the game of tennis, and I'm so excited for this season." Away from CHS, Olivas also works as a flight attendant and coaches tennis privately.

Coach Olivas' son Elijah, a graduate student at John Hopkins University who hopes to finish his Master's degree later this year,

has worked as an assistant coach alongside his father for five years. Elijah believes this year's group of freshmen is special: "We've never had more eager students come out and play." Although most freshmen tennis players start out new to the sport, Elijah says this challenge is what makes coaching fun.

During Tuesday, September 17's matches against visiting McClintock HS, the bleachers were full of parents, grandparents, friends, and people who had one thing in common: to support the team. Although CHS didn't take home the win that day, our girls served up some amazing play.

Follow @ladywolvstennis to support these hard-working athletes and track their progress through the season.



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Fall Assembly

Our favorite snapshots from September 20, 2024

by Bella Dana, Editor-In-Chief



Riely Foerst, Senior



Officer Dieu and Principal Milbrandt



CHS Los Lobos Ballet Folklorico



CHS Badminton



Mr. Wood and Mr. Gray



Alex Norwood and Maddie Harada, Juniors